



Kent on Sunday

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MID & WEST KENT EDITION

Issue no 498

Elderly are 'less likely to be given treatment for cancer'

By **Marijke Cox**

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A **CANCER** charity has warned that elderly patients are missing out on vital treatment due to their age, which is contributing to "unacceptably poor" survival rates for their age group.

A damning report by Macmillan Cancer Support said in five years an estimated 13,645 people aged over 75 living in Kent will be diagnosed with cancer, and there needed to be a more effective way of treating them.

Charity bosses said 'under-treatment' – such as not being offered surgery – was one of a number of factors contributing to avoidable deaths among the elderly.

"We know older people are less likely to receive cancer treatments such as

surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy than younger people," said Macmillan chief executive Ciarán Devane.

"Often, this is medically justifiable – over-treatment is just as undesirable as under – but we can't ignore the growing evidence which suggests that many older patients who could benefit from treatment are not being offered it.

"Assumptions about someone's ability to tolerate treatment, quality of life, or personal preferences should never be based on their chronological age.

"Two people of the same age may have very different needs and will cope with cancer treatments differently."

Predicted cancer diagnosis in over 75s for the next five years, based on

Continued on page 2



BEEB WEATHERGIRL SHOCK DEPARTURE

RAINED OFF: Kaddy Lee-Preston leaves her weather job at the BBC – **SEE INSIDE**

CRIME

Sex abuse of children drops

SEX offences against children, including rape and incest, have gone down by a third in the last 12 months. But experts say the fact there were still 495 offences, nearly all against girls, means there is still a lot to be done. They called on parents, schools and the Government to help cut crime rates. **PAGE 3**

WATER

How to avoid a hosepipe fine

THE hosepipe ban came into effect across the county this week, and is expected to last until after the summer.

It could be easier than you think to break the restrictions and end up with a £1,000 fine.

So, don't take any chances, and read our guide to the water restrictions. **PAGE 7**

SPORTS

My Chariots of Fire moment

KENT on Sunday's Chris Britcher reports on what sports fans can expect from their summer visits to the Olympic stadium in Stratford.

He also put on his running shoes for a gruelling five-mile race that ended at the stadium's soon-to-be famous finishing line. **PAGE 70**

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ENTERTAINMENT

TV director calls in top stars for his hometown love stories

By Ed Hill

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THE director of a new series of BBC One dramas shot in Margate says the programmes will show the "beauty" of the town, and not the economic problems it suffers.

Bafta-winning writer and director Dominic Savage brought the first episode of his series True Love to the town to preview to 150 people at Turner Contemporary last week.

The five-part series, to be screened in June, uses Margate as the backdrop to stories that deal with difficult relationships.

Savage was born in Margate in 1962 and grew up in the town. He said: "It was at a time when it was still a popular seaside resort. It was thriving so it still had that excitement about it. It was a place where people came for a week's holiday rather than just a day trip."

True Love has some big stars on board, including David Tennant, Billie Piper, Jane Horrocks, Asher D and David Morrissey, with the actors working with the director to create the script.

Savage said: "They were a bit nervous because they were not exactly sure how it is going to turn out. I like to leave a certain amount of the script to come out of experimentation. The actors have to have a willingness to really enter into it."

"David [Tennant] had not done anything like this before but we had a great time trying out different things. It's invigorating, the actors have to contribute a lot of their personal experience and that leads to a deeper kind of performance."

The director has been praised for his films Love+Hate and Freefall, which looked at the impact of the credit crunch on people's lives.

Savage had always thought of using his hometown for his work but still had reservations. He said: "I had shot things in Hastings and Barry Is-



land but I avoided Margate because it was too close to home. This seemed a chance to film here because in a way it could have been set anywhere.

"The place is full of memories for me but I am glad I did do it here. When I was writing the script I could imagine where things were going to be shot. I could tell the location manager exactly what I wanted. It has helped imbue the film with an extra degree of emotional depth."

Savage wanted to show the seaside town in a positive light. He said: "I tried to show the beauty of the place. The films are all about love so I wanted to give the quality of those big skies and the beach and the romanticism in Margate."

"I did not want to make a film about a depressed seaside town or a place with social problems. That was not what I wanted to do."

The director, who appeared in Stanley Kubrick's film Barry Lyndon as a child, left Margate in the early 90s to pursue his television career.

He said: "The stories are all about love that is in some way difficult to achieve or frustrated or improper or has some sort of taboo about it. They make much more interesting stories."

"No-one is really interested in hearing boy meets girl and they all live happily ever after."

And he hopes people will enjoy seeing the town shot through the lens of someone who knows the area well.

He said: "It is a great show for Margate. It does look like a very attractive place to be and I think people will enjoy seeing the different aspects of the place in this slightly fantastical way."

■ For all the very latest news and sport headlines see www.yourthanet.co.uk.

BEAUTY: Director Dominic Savage, right, brought (above l-r) David Morrissey, David Tennant, Billie Piper, Asher D, and Jane Horrocks to Margate to film the True Love TV series



NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Police staffing boost

KENT Police say plans to save cash after £50m budget cuts are going so well 20 new officers were recruited earlier this year and that more bobbies will be taken on in the autumn.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth said: "Restructuring our policing model and streamlining back office roles has meant I have been able to put more officers into neighbourhoods, focusing on reducing crime and delivering a high quality, professional service to the public in Kent."

➔ Puerto Rico signs up

SOME 40 athletes from Puerto Rico are to train in Kent in the build up to the Olympic Games. They are 11th team to base competitors in the county ahead of the Games.

The athletes will be training at Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury High School and Canterbury Boxing Club.

Other countries that will base athletes in Kent include Australia, Portugal, Ukraine, Belarus, Slovenia Senegal, Congo, and Papua New Guinea.

➔ Attempted murder case

TWO men have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, and released on bail, after a woman was shot in the leg. The woman, 50, from Benenden, was feeding her horse in Cranbrook on March 15 when she was shot from a hedge. She has spent two weeks in Tunbridge Wells Hospital recovering from her gunshot injuries under police protection. The men are both 62 and known to the victim.

CRIME

Child sex abuse crimes drop by a third

THE number of children sexually abused over the past year has fallen, but remains a severe problem.

The NSPCC obtained figures from police forces around the UK. In Kent, 495 children were abused, 443 of them girls.

The assaults included rape, incest and abuse through prostitution and pornography.

The figure is down a third on the previous year's total, but at almost 10 a week it remains a major worry. Horrifically, 48 of these victims had not reached secondary school age. The rest were aged 11-17.

Sadly, Kent remains one of

the highest for the number of offences in much of the South East, but Kent County Council said it is working to reduce the figures further.

The NSPCC runs specialist programmes to protect children, from its Gillingham service centre, and is calling on parents, the Government and schools to take greater action to reduce the figures.

Some of the ways it highlights to protect children include schools and parents educating children about staying safe and reporting abuse, and for the Government to support the provision of

therapeutic services for child victims and treatment programmes for offenders.

NSPCC head for Kent Julie Cole said: "The NSPCC is doing what it can, but we can't tackle this problem by ourselves. It requires a major effort from government and the public to give children the protection they need."

KCC cabinet member for specialist children's services Cllr Jenny Whittle said: "KCC will continue to work closely with schools and parents to be alert to the danger signs, as sadly the perpetrator is most likely to be a relative or friend."



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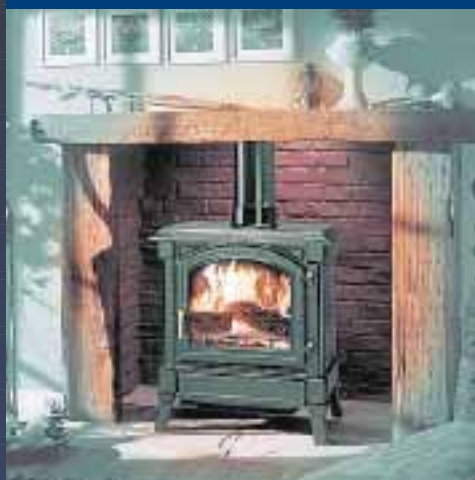
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EDUCATION

Schools bucking the trend by cutting pupil expulsion rates

By Marijke Cox

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EDUCATION chiefs are exploring the huge difference in the number of school expulsions between districts, with hopes of rolling out a countywide scheme to keep troublesome pupils in the classroom.

It follows a report discussed earlier this year where Kent County Council admitted the overall downward trend in permanent exclusions "masked an issue" where the use of expulsion was consistently higher than the national average.

Now, County Hall chiefs have thrown the spotlight on Dartford, where expulsion figures are significantly lower than neighbouring boroughs.

Dartford saw just six permanent exclusions in 2010-11 compared to nearby Gravesham which had 19.

Ashford also saw just six. Maidstone had 33, Swale 39, Thanet 30, Dover 21, and Canterbury the biggest number by far with 50.

The remaining districts ranged from 11 up to 17.

The success in Ashford is

down to a "zero exclusions" policy which saw five secondary schools agree they would not permanently exclude but would instead set up in-house alternatives using funding made available through closure of the pupil referral unit.

Two grammar schools and 44 primary schools in the area have now become involved.

Cabinet member for education, learning and skills Cllr Mike Whiting said Dartford was also bucking the trend and work was being carried out with a view to using the same ideas countywide.

"What we're looking at is the good practice that is happening in Dartford and spreading that out across Kent," he said.

"Schools in that area are working together in collaboration and working with the local children's trust, but we need to understand exactly what they are doing so we can use that elsewhere.

"We need to look at managed moves between schools so we can keep children in mainstream school. We don't want to see permanent exclusion in Kent. It damages life chances



just like a criminal record.

"We need to include children wherever possible and work with schools to make that happen – we need to understand the work being undertaken in Dartford.

"All children benefit from staying in school."

The team working on reducing exclusion said it would be looking at why rates in Canterbury are so high as well as the high level of permanent exclu-

sions at secondary academies.

The team's target for 2015 is to see fewer than 50 pupils expelled in Kent, with a proportional impact on those with special educational needs, and no permanent exclusion of looked-after children.

YOU'RE OUT:

Dartford and Ashford each saw six pupils excluded last year, in contrast to 50 in Canterbury

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ A21 pedestrian killed

A WOMAN was killed as she crossed the A21 in Pembury in the early hours of Tuesday.

Police are investigating the fatal collision in which a 34-year-old woman from Basingstoke died. The accident occurred at around 12.30am where a Ford Mondeo had broken down opposite the Shell garage at Pembury Road, Castle Hill.

The female driver of the Mondeo was struck by a grey Citroen C5 as she crossed the road. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

➔ Academy report boost

GOVERNORS at the Marlowe Academy, Ramsgate, have announced that "satisfactory" progress is being made following the most recent Ofsted inspection.

It comes after findings from an inspection in November placed the school in special measures. But a monitoring inspection on March 21-22 showed satisfactory progress was being made in all areas inspected, including those identified for improvement during the last visit.

➔ Sikh festival procession

GRAVESEND'S Sikh community will be celebrating the traditional Vaisakhi festival next weekend with the popular and colourful procession on Saturday, April 14, followed by a celebratory service on Sunday at the town's new Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara. The procession is expected to be attended by about 5,000 people, setting off from the gurdwara (temple) and passing through the town centre.

TELEVISION

Storm brews over weathergirl Kaddy's surprise exit from BBC

POPULAR BBC weathergirl and presenter Kaddy Lee-Preston has shocked viewers by quietly leaving her post after more than 10 years.

Her departure was announced at the end of the 6.30pm news on March 30, but Miss Lee-Preston, pictured, and the BBC are remaining tight-lipped about the reason for her exit.

A BBC spokeswoman would only say the corporation wished her all the best for the future.

Miss Lee-Preston, a fully qualified weather forecaster, was one of the first members of the South East Today team, which launched in September, 2001.

While her primary role was forecasting, she later became a presenter on the popular Inside Out show, something she described as a "dream come true".

"It means I can spend the half of the week when I'm not doing the weather for South East Today filming stories that are important to our region," she said at the time.

A BBC source told KoS the 34-year-old's

departure had come as a shock and little was known about why she left.

"Had it been amicable I'm sure more would have been made of it," they said. "It's odd. Nothing has been said about why she left."

Friends and colleagues paid tribute to the bubbly weathergirl, who was well known across the county, not only for her TV work, but also for her charity expeditions, such as her cycle ride across the Andes for Macmillan.

BBC weatherman Michael Fish bid farewell to Miss Lee-Preston on her Facebook page, along with hundreds of other well-wishers.

"And I thought I was going to retire again and now I have all your shifts! Good luck," Mr Fish wrote.

Before joining the BBC, Miss Lee-Preston studied meteorology at Reading University and went on to join the Met Office.

She worked on various forecasting jobs, including for Harrier planes at an RAF base and for horse and pigeon racing competitions, before joining South East Today.



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WATER

As hosepipe ban starts, confusion about the rules could leave you with a £1k fine

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

EVEN if it rains for a week, it won't lift the hosepipe ban which was caused by the worst drought for 30 years.

While standpipes and bowsers in the streets may not be on the cards, the situation with low water levels is critical in the county, and the five water companies that supply homes are urging people to be sensible about their water use.

So little water remains in our reservoirs and underground aquifers, a hosepipe ban came into force on Thursday in the face of the second driest 12 months on record. Bewl Water reservoir is at just 48 per cent capacity.

Kent's suppliers – Southern Water, South East Water, Veolia Water South East, Thames Water, and Sutton and East Surrey Water – introduced the ban simultaneously.

The groundwater sources, used to provide 75 per cent of South East Water's supplies, are at moderate or severely low levels, with some reaching their lowest-ever recorded levels.

This is the first Southern Water ban since 2005-06, but what does it mean for everyone?

The simple rule is no use of a hosepipe, even if it's being used to fill a watering can.

But it's not completely straightforward.

**WHEN TO WATER:**

Hosepipe use has been banned, but they are still allowed to be used in certain situations

So, no hosepipes to be used for the garden, or on vehicles, trailers, leisure boats, pools, general recreation, ponds, and fountains, or for cleaning walls, windows, paths or patios or other artificial outdoor surfaces.

But, you can use them in a garden or for cleaning walls or windows of a home, paths or patios, a private leisure boat or an artificial outdoor surface – if you have a decent health and safety reason.

You can also water gardens attached to a domestic dwelling or watering plants on domestic premises using a hosepipe, if you have severe mobility problems and hold a Blue Badge.

Plus hosepipes can be used to clean private ve-

hicles, private leisure boats, walls and windows of domestic premises in the course of a business.

And don't be shocked to see them also in use to water an area of grass for sport or recreation where required in connection with a national or international sports event.

Another exemption is the use of drip or trickle irrigation watering systems, fitted with a pressure reducing valve and a timer, that are not handheld, that place water drip by drip directly onto the soil surface or beneath the soil surface, without any surface run off or dispersion of water through the air using a jet or mist.

You can maintain a domestic swimming pool

with a water conservation recycling system.

Also, there was talk of allowing the over 65s use of hosepipes too, but that has been scrapped.

Anyone caught breaking the restrictions could face a £1,000 fine.

Lee Dance, head of water resources and environmental at South East Water, said: "The restrictions are a regrettable, but necessary, step to protect supplies for essential use of water for drinking, washing and cooking and to minimise the impact on the water environment."

The Environment Agency said rainfall has been less half of what it should be recently.

Southern's water quality and strategy manager Meyrick Gough said: "The restrictions will help reduce the overall amount of water used by about five per cent, which will help safeguard supplies for drinking and household use."

"However, Southern Water is monitoring the rainfall and water resource situation closely and cannot rule out further restrictions. We will keep customers regularly updated on the situation."

All the water companies say stopping leaks is a major priority.

But how honest are we? A website called hosepipeban.org.uk asked "Would you shop a neighbour" and presently the voting says just 37 per cent would call the authorities to inform on a neighbour using a hosepipe.

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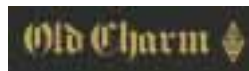
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CRIME

Lucky escape as drug taker's arson attack guts girlfriend's home

A JUNKIE who set fire to his partner's house, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage, was lucky not to kill anyone, say police.

Jason Hale, 25, of no fixed abode, was sentenced to four years by Maidstone Crown Court after he was found guilty of arson with intent to endanger life.

On the evening of November 18, 2011, Hale was at the home in Lower Boxley Road, Maidstone. He had got into the house by asking neighbours if he could go through their home to gain access via the back, as he claimed to have locked himself out.

A short time later Hale returned to the neighbour's house, holding a candle lighter, claiming his partner's house had been burgled.

Some time later there was a loud bang and another neighbour raised the alarm after spotting an upstairs bedroom in Hale's partner's house was alight.

As a result the whole street was evacuated while firefighters extinguished the blaze.

On the wall of the property, Hale – known as Jay – had written 'www.jaydiy.com'.

After he was arrested, Hale suggested the fire had been started accidentally, but investigators discovered the fire had been started in two different locations in the bedroom.

Sentencing Hale, His Honour Judge MacDonald said: "You caused a fire at the front window of the property, causing very extensive fire damage estimated at costing £36,000 to repair.

"You did not call the fire brigade or the police and it could have been a very different outcome had three fire engines not been called by another person.

"Fortunately no-one died.

"The psychiatric report shows your apparent mental disorder is purely induced by drug abuse. You will go to prison for four years."

Investigating officer Det Con Simon Powell, from Kent Police, said: "It's with great ease and speed that fires can spread, especially in a terraced property, and it is by good fortune that no-one was hurt or



TORCHED: The arson by Jason Hale (below) caused £36,000 of fire damage (above)

far worse, killed. By starting a fire in the bedroom, Hale showed great disregard for this family's home and their possessions and he will quite rightly now have to serve a custodial sentence."

Hale also received an eight-week custodial sentence for the theft of a purse from the neighbour when he used their house to cut through to the rear to his partner's house, which will run concurrently to his sentence for arson.



CRIME

Motorsports rising star has career ruined in recycling plant accident

A MAIDSTONE recycling firm has been fined after a teenager with a promising motocross career had his foot broken by a 16-tonne machine, and was "lucky not to be killed".

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuted Countryside Recycling Limited of Lenham, for failing to operate a safe system of working at its site in Folkestone.

Maidstone Magistrates' Court heard that on February 22, 2010, Daniel Brown, 19, was sorting waste at the recycling plant in Park Farm Close when a tyre of a 16-tonne shovel ran over his right foot, breaking 16 bones.

He still suffers pain and arthritis and had to give up a possible career in motocross, having won races at national level.

He cannot learn to drive, and has been unable to return to work.

The HSE said there was no system to ensure moving vehicles and pedestrians were segregated. The heater in the cab was broken so the windows tended to steam up, reducing visibility.

The shovel also had a broken wing mirror, no reversing lights, no reversing CCTV or convex mirror and wouldn't always go into gear. A screwdriver was used to start it and the roof beacon and lights would regularly blow bulbs.

HSE's inspector Stephen Green said: "The injured worker was lucky not to be killed."

The firm admitted breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £6,221 costs.

PARKING

Six car parks set to get a Sunday facelift

SIX car parks run by Sevenoaks council are to benefit from a makeover.

Starting in mid-April, the council will invest £50,000 in maintenance works at the car parks in Sevenoaks and Westerham. The facelift will involve laying new surfaces or patching the car parks and access roads.

Works will take place on Sundays to minimise disruption to shoppers and businesses.

ROADS

Neighbours stage dirty protest over fast cars

AROUND 100 people in Upper Fant Road, Maidstone, have put 20mph on their wheelie bins as a protest at speeding traffic in their road.

Kent Green MEP Keith Taylor visited on Thursday to meet residents. Stuart Jeffery of Maidstone Green Party said: "Residents have been campaigning to get their road made safer for more than quarter of a century yet the council continues to turn a blind eye to their concerns."

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ART

Sir Peter's lifetime heroes club

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SO you have produced the world's most iconic album cover for The Beatles and you have just turned 80 – what better way to celebrate your birthday than to recreate the famous artwork, this time with your own all-time heroes?

Talk about reasons to be cheerful. Sir Peter Blake's Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band cover is known the world over. And now he has 'remastered' it showing the image with all the people who have meant so much to him during his 80 years.

Some Kent stars are included too, like David Bowie, who grew up in Bromley and Ian Dury, who taught at Canterbury College of Art.

And then there is unmade bed artist Tracey Emin, from Margate, Mick Jagger from Dartford, and of course the Beatle himself Paul McCartney who had a home on the Kent border near Rye, and is in the piece with his daughter Stella.

The British pop-artist has long wanted to take another look at the



THE NEW FACES: Sir Peter Blake selects the British cultural icons of his life to mark his 80th birthday

Audrey Hepburn who lived in the village of Elham from 1937-39.

The Blake Gallery, named after Sir Peter, was opened last year in Gravesend. The artist attended the junior art department at Gravesend Technical College School of Art from 1946-49 and then Gravesend School of Art 1949-51.

Sir Peter, a legend himself, selected the new 'team' from across the cultural spectrum, including artists, designers, directors, musicians, writers, actors, fashion designers, even chefs, and he couldn't resist including himself and his family.

Sir Peter said: "I've chosen people I admire, great people and some who are dear friends. I had a very long list of people who I wanted to go in but couldn't fit everyone in – I think that shows how strong British culture and its legacy of the last six decades is."

Emin said: "How lovely to be part of Sir Peter's new creation... and exciting to find out who I will be next to."

renowned artwork from 1967 and select people who have inspired his

own creative career. Also on the montage is Hollywood actress

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News

ROYALTY

It's party time as streets set to close for Diamond Jubilee

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

DIAMOND Jubilee fever is sweeping the county with preparations for parties in honour of the Queen already underway in dozens of streets.

The latest count by Kent County Council showed 62 road closures had been approved, with a further 23 expected to be added to the list in the coming week.

And a KCC spokesman said the figure was likely to rise above 100 after the Easter holidays.

In Medway, there have been 13 applications so far to close streets to mark the Queen's 60 years on the throne.

Last year, the county saw more than 180 parties take place for the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

Despite a slow uptake in road closure applications, just weeks before the nuptials a huge surge in interest pushed Kent into the top three local authorities with the most parties.

And if predictions are correct, it looks as though we could repeat that success again.

KCC is inviting communities to dust off the bunting and get involved with the historic occa-

sion over the extended holiday, which runs from Saturday to Tuesday, June 2-5.

Residents can apply for road closures over any of the four days. The deadline is Friday, May 18. KCC cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, Cllr Bryan Sweetland, said the authority was waiving charges for street parties on quiet residential roads and cul-de-sacs.

"This 'can-do' approach will allow people to organise a jubilee celebration with neighbours in a traffic-free street, giving children the chance to play freely for a change," he said.

"Organisers only have to complete a simple online form.

"In addition, there is no charge for processing applications, or for road closure signs that we will provide. This means parties in quiet residential roads and cul-de-sacs can be held for free.

"We wish hope residents in Kent will seize the opportunity to celebrate this historic occasion."

Organisers can request an application form online at www.kent.gov.uk/streetparty, or by calling 08458 247 800.

Medway Council is also encouraging people to host parties. To apply, go to www.medway.gov.uk/communityandliving/streetparties.aspx.



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Advertisement feature

Stamp out damp

Don't just sit there... Let Holland Damp Proofing treat your damp problems

By Sarah Porter

DAMP is a creeping menace that affects thousands of homes across Kent.

It rots woodwork and carpets, peels wallpaper and causes fungus and mould growth on walls. Don't be fooled if the symptoms are less obvious after the dry weather, the damp will be back!

With the onset of Spring, it is the perfect time to make improvements to your home, including treating the causes of damp. Act now and you will give your home a head start on 'drying out' which will help protect and preserve it for the future.

It is important to tackle the problem because ignoring damp can store up serious problems and also pose potential health risks – especially if you have a medical condition such as asthma or rheumatism.

For years, people have tried to solve damp problems by applying waterproof coatings or injecting walls with chemical solutions. This can



EXPERT OPINION: Evert de Graaf with one of the damp-regulating bricks that have already been installed in thousands of UK homes.

involve contractors coming into your home and drilling into brickwork to pump chemicals into the walls – hacking off and replacing plaster inside.

The work can be messy, intrusive and your home will need redecorating once it's been done. And, despite all this upheaval, there's no guarantee that it will work in the long term.

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THUMBS UP: Mr Forino

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News

DEVELOPMENT

Green Belt battle starts again as new front opens at Chinese field

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

JUST months after securing victory in the fight to protect precious Green Belt land, campaigners have been left wondering if they celebrated too soon.

In February, people living in Gravesham welcomed the borough council's surprising U-turn over plans to allow development on Green Belt land in its core strategy.

Council leader John Burden announced a new planning blueprint which would instead protect the Green Belt.

The sole exception was for the development of much-needed housing for the elderly and care home facilities on rural sites.

But no more than two months since the U-turn and Moat Housing Association has unveiled ideas to build housing on land known as the Chinese field at Gravesham – a protected greenfield site.

Gravesham said no plans have been submitted but the housing association had con-



AT RISK:

Protestors want to set up a community plan scheme in a bid to protect Chinese field

tacted Meopham parish council with "ideas" for the land.

A Moat spokeswoman said: "We're holding a public presentation at the end of April to discuss our potential plans for Chinese field with the parish council and local community. Until after this presentation we don't have anything more to say on these plans, other than that they involve a mix of houses and flats."

Protesters are urging residents to contact parish councils or residents associations to draw up a neighbourhood plan to stop the development.

Currently, two parish councils in Kent – Worth near Sandwich and Faversham Creek – are piloting the new Government neighbourhood plan scheme to trial rights which are expected to put pow-

er in communities' hands.

Protect Kent activist Alex Hills is urging Gravesham residents to draw up their own plan to try and halt the construction. He said it was particularly important for people in Meopham, Istead Rise and Higham.

"Until the voices of residents are heard, applications such as the one from Moat Housing should be delayed," he said.

"This would not result in a particularly long delay, but would enable people to have their say on plans that will affect them for years to come."

Cllr Burden stressed rural locations had been rejected as potential development sites following a public consultation, but housing for the elderly and extra care home facilities would be the possible exception.



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News

SPORT

Traffic won't be all fun and Games during the Olympics

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHAT would happen to Kent if it held the Wimbledon tennis tournament and a couple of FA Cup Finals, plus the security nightmare of a G20 Summit, all at the same time on the same day and then repeated it for several weeks?

Well, we are about to find out as the Olympics creeps ever nearer, and Kent County Council wants residents to consider their daily lives and prepare to adjust while the Games are on in Stratford, east London.

The biggest sporting event in the UK for a generation will have a major effect on most of our lives, even if we have no intention of going to any events.

The Olympics and Paralympics in July, August and September, will attract around 250,000 extra people to the county every day, with many staying in Kent and using the roads and public transport.

KCC said we all need to make the most of the opportunities



ON FIRE: The Olympics are a great opportunity for us all

presented by the rise in visitors, but we also need to plan for the extra pressure on the transport network. Businesses must consider deliveries, and how they will cope without staff who have Games tickets.

KCC is now fine-tuning the details with councils, emergency services, education providers, businesses and voluntary groups, to ensure Kent keeps moving during the Games.

There is a new webpage packed with information, and Twitter feeds from KCC's highways and transportation team.

Cabinet member for customer and communities, Cllr Mike Hill, said: "The Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a

fantastic opportunity to enjoy a summer of sport. It will generate a large amount of tourism and we hope businesses make the most of this.

"Visitors will make big demands on our transport network and a huge amount of planning has gone into making sure people can get on as normal."

And Kent Fire and Rescue Service had a safety warning for anyone renting out their home to sports fans, and those setting up temporary campsites or renting out boats.

KFRS director of service delivery, Steve Griffiths said: "Basic safety tips such as making sure you have a working smoke alarm, know your escape route and taking care in the kitchen are valid to both the Kent community and tourists. So even if you plan to be elsewhere for the event, make sure your home is fire safe so you have something to return to."

For more about fire safety regulations, visit www.kent.gov.uk/london2012 and www.kent.fire-uk.org.

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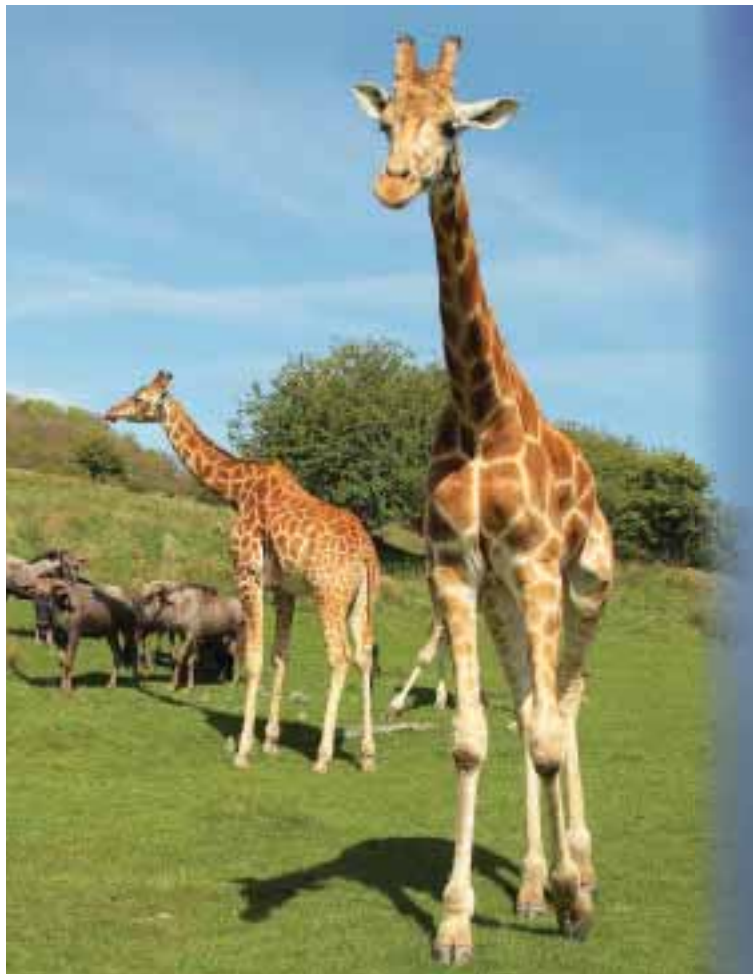
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News

COMPETITION

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ROYAL APPOINTMENT

High Sheriff is ready to raise the morale of the forces of law and order

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE new High Sheriff of Kent has officially taken up his position as the Queen's judicial representative, vowing to boost the morale of those who keep this county safe.

Mike Bax, who is senior partner at rural and commercial land agent the BTF Partnership, said the 1,000-year-old role was more than just a ceremonial position and stressed that public bodies, such as Kent Police and port immigration, needed morale boosting now more than ever.

"There are real challenges at the moment, for example with the police cuts," he said.

"The High Sheriff is the Queen's judicial representative and as part of that I will be visiting the police, the prison service, the probation service, the ports and immigration. Everywhere there's action in keeping Kent safe.

"This job is about morale-raising. It is much more than a ceremonial role – it is a terrific opportunity to show appreciation to our law enforce-



NEW HIGH SHERIFF: Mike Bax

ment agencies and emergency services and celebrate the work of the many paid and unpaid individuals and charities that work across the county in this sector."

The 58-year-old said he will be responsible for taking care of High Court judges when they visit the county, and also attending Royal visits.

"It will be very busy this year with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics," he said.

Traditionally, the office of High Sheriff of Kent represent-

ed the sovereign in the county in matters relating to the judiciary and maintenance of law and order – a task that is now the responsibility of the chief constable of Kent Police.

Today's role will see Mr Bax support voluntary and statutory bodies engaged in law and order. He will hold the title for the next 12 months.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the nitty gritty of how Kent's safety, through the police, prison service, the ports and other bodies, is administered," he said.

"I also want to make the High Sheriff more relevant. I don't think people know what the High Sheriff does and it's important they do."

Mr Bax, who lives between Shadoxhurst and Woodchurch, said being installed as High Sheriff was a great honour.

He added that he will continue his role as senior partner at BTF Partnership alongside the High Sheriff position.

Previous High Sheriffs include Robert Harry Beale Neame of the Shepherd Neame brewery family and Visit Kent chairman Amanda Cottrell.



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News

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FINANCE

£3m Big Society loans fund helps community groups to get ideas off the ground

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

KENT has pushed itself to the forefront of David Cameron's Big Society with the launch of a £3 million fund.

Kent County Council has put aside the cash to help fund social enterprises that are designed to benefit local communities.

The Big Society Fund money will be available for ideas that may find it difficult to get cash from banks.

An example of the sort of project that could apply for funding is Whole School Meals in Deal. The company was set up in 2005 to provide better school dinners in the Deal, Dover and Sandwich area.

This is a collective of schools, parents and businesses who run a school meal service made from local produce. Any profits raised are invested back into the business.

Tunbridge Wells Tory MP Greg Clark, who is communities and local government minister, was at the launch of the new fund.

He said: "It is called the Big Society Fund and this could not be a better expression of it. KCC is, on behalf of the Kent community, providing money for volunteers to do things that will benefit people in the county. This is a good example of the Big Society in action."

Groups wishing to apply for the loans can get anything from £10,000 to £100,000 to help get their community business off the ground. It is also available to existing community projects.

The repayments will be fed back into the fund to continue to provide new loans to other organisations.

County Hall is also looking for philanthropic investors to donate money to the fund. Tax relief is available to individuals or businesses that hand over money.

The loans will be managed by charity the Kent Community Foundation. Applicants will appeal to the charity to see if they are eligible. They will be assessed by the group and interest rates on the loan will be set on a case-by-case basis.

Mr Clark said: "It will complement banks and give more choice to find funds for new social enterprises that do not have the track record that banks demand. There can be brilliant ideas that find it difficult to obtain funding. It is important for the community that some of these ideas get off the ground."

Some of the services may be those that would have been provided directly by the council in the past.

Mr Clark said: "Some are now provided by private companies but social enterprises should be particularly suitable for people who may not want to be part of a national chain to provide these services locally and include the community."

The money is part of a one-off £5m allocation from KCC's budget that has been set aside to help the community. The remaining £2m will be used for a new initiative to tackle youth unemployment.

Applications can be made online by visiting www.kentcf.org.uk/loan_funding.html.



SUPPORT: MP Greg Clark was at the launch of the Big Society Fund

CRIME

Mum and daughter killed man

THE wife and daughter of a man who disappeared almost 11 years ago have been sentenced to life imprisonment for his murder.

Retired bookie Don Banfield, 63, was last seen alive leaving the family home in Wealdstone, north-west London, in May, 2001. He was believed to be considering leaving his wife.

Shirley Banfield, 64, and her daughter Lynette Banfield, 40, of Ashford Road, Canterbury, were this week convicted of his murder.

They were both given life sentences, with a minimum term of 18 years for Shirley Banfield, and 16 years for her daughter.

Mr Banfield's body was never found.

CONTEST

Choir sing their way to victory

SINGERS from a Canterbury school have won the Top Choir Kent 2012 title after a hard-fought final in front of 600 people at Shirley Hall in the city.

The choir, Sedecim - Latin for 16 - made up of 19 pupils from Kent College and led by their musical director, Jackie Spencer, was the judges' unanimous choice.

Chairman of the judges, Dr David Flood, who is organist and master of choristers at Canterbury Cathedral, praised the musical ability of the choir and the breadth of music they performed.

He said: "Sedecim is a young choir achieving at an enormously high level."

"This was a balanced and refined performance".



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NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Parking goes mobile

VISITORS to Ashford's council pay-and-display car parks and on-street bays can now pay for parking using their mobile phones.

"Parkmobile" gives people the options of starting and stopping their parking whenever they want, without having to guess the length of their stay in advance. Drivers have to call or text the local-rate telephone number displayed on the ticket machines, quoting the unique location number, to start their parking.

➔ Copter firm's flying high

A HIGH-flying new Canterbury business that gives passengers the chance to fly alongside a World War Two fighter planes in the skies over Kent has won a major award. Action Stations! has won the White Cliffs Business Award for Innovation for 2011-12. The award reflects the unique experience that Action Stations! provides by flying passengers in helicopters along the White Cliffs of Dover in the company of a Spitfire or Hurricane.

➔ Shocking truth for kids

KENT schoolchildren will be learning about the dangers of electricity with workshops organised by UK Power Networks. About 300 school pupils will attend the hard-hitting sessions this month, run by the company which owns and operates the electricity distribution network in the South East. Children will learn about the hazards of playing near substations and overhead power lines.

TRIBUTE

Shock at sudden death of a 'premier league' politician

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archanct.co.uk

TRIBUTES have been paid to popular county councillor Kevin Lynes, who died suddenly last week.

Friends and colleagues were left stunned as news of his death emerged. It is understood the father-of-two collapsed during the evening on Friday, March 30, and died shortly after.

The 53-year-old, who was cabinet member for regeneration and economic development at Kent County Council, was a highly respected councillor and tipped as a future leader of County Hall.

He was elected in June 2001 as the Conservative member for Tunbridge Wells Rural West and most recently he represented the Tunbridge Wells East division of St James', Pembury and Sherwood.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "Kevin was in the premier league of local government councillors nationally – hard working, dedicated and compassionate," he said.

"He always put the residents he represented first.

"Most importantly, Kevin made a huge difference in carrying out his many roles at County Hall.

"As cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, Kevin was in his element, supporting businesses of all shapes and sizes across the Kent economy, which is in a better place as a result of his dedication and endeavours.

"He will be enormously missed not only in the corridors of County Hall but around the county. Our thoughts, prayers and heartfelt sympathies go out to Kevin's family and his many friends."

Cllr Lynes, who lived in Goudhurst, joined former leader Sandy Bruce-Lockhart's cabinet in 2002 just a year after being elected onto KCC, where he held the resources portfolio until 2005.

He went on to hold the adult social services portfolio from 2005-08, when he was appointed as cabinet member for regeneration and economic development.

Most recently he had been appointed chairman of a taskforce set up to help workers of stricken Sheerness firm Thamesteel.

Speaking to KoS just a few weeks ago, he had vowed to do all he could to help employees who had lost their jobs.

As news of his death emerged, friends and colleagues paid tribute and a book of condolences was opened by KCC for those wishing to leave messages.

Thanet District Council leader Cllr Clive Hart said: "We were from different political parties but I never once had any problem with Kevin in my four years at County Hall and I always found him extremely polite and welcoming.

"Indeed, since I became leader at TDC last December, Kevin has genuinely been very supportive and we were working together on several projects here in Thanet. Truly lovely guy – just isn't fair."

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce chief executive Jo James said: "Kevin will be sorely missed, not only as a fine personality, but for his immense contribution to the community as a whole; especially to the business community throughout Kent.

"He was truly a champion for our



COMPASSIONATE: Kevin Lynes

county and a real friend to the business community. His drive and passion was infectious and certainly a catalyst to make things happen."

Cllr Bob Backhouse, who represents Sherwood on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, also paid tribute.

"Kevin helped, during his 10-plus years as our representative in Maidstone to engender a sense of community here in Sherwood as well as Pembury and St James.

"We have lost a good friend and a champion for our community."

Anyone wanting to contribute to the condolence book can do so at Tunbridge Wells Library, Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1NS.

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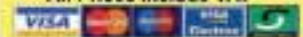
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KENT REMEMBERED



TRULY BIZARRE: Kathryn's new book (right) reveals many untold stories about the cathedral city

Canterbury tales you won't have heard of...

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A FESTIVE mince pie ban is worth rioting for, and some loaves of bread needed four people to carry them.

These are just a couple of bizarre facts which go to make up a new book about Canterbury.

Oh, an talking about books and Canterbury, did you know Canterbury Tales scribbler Geoffrey Chaucer never showed his face in the city?

Kathryn Bedford does and so will the readers of her oddball book, *Canterbury: A Pocket Miscellany*.

From historical facts and figures to the truly bizarre, it includes everything you will never needed to know about one of England's most prestigious cathedral cities.

She includes tales of crimes and criminals, customs and traditions, a blue plaque guide, famous figures, and strange statistics.

The Canterbury native said it is a detailed insider's guide making it essential reading for fans of the city, and tourists.

The history PhD student did her dissertation on Kentish history, with a special focus on Canterbury.

And Kathryn admits being passionate about local history and Kent, where she is proud to have been born and bred.

Of her first book for publisher The History Press, the 27-year-old said: "I wrote the book to inspire people's interest in the past. There are so many fantastic stories in Britain; every town

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1647, Canterbury's Christmas Riot defended the citizen's rights to put up decorations, eat mince pies and have a holiday.
- It was not until the 1610 Map of the County of Kent by William Camden that an accurate representation of the city's location was produced.
- During the first year of World War One, 460 patients were treated at Dane John's hospital – only one died.
- Charles II stayed at the Three Tuns Inn during his journey from Dover to London for his restoration in 1660, after the downfall of Cromwell's Commonwealth government.
- George Bennett escaped from Westgate prison on New Year's Day in 1828. He managed to use the flag and the flag pole on the roof to lower himself over the side. This option was not available to later offenders, as the flag pole blew down in 1832.
- H Hopper, a baker at 80 Wincheap Street from the 1930s to 1960s, became known for baking the longest loaf in the world. It took four people to carry it.

or village has someone interesting who lived there or a dramatic or funny event that happened there, and yet so few people are aware of them.

"A city like Canterbury that has been at the centre of world events for centuries is particularly rife with stories.

"It has been visited by everyone from Charles Dickens to Queen Elizabeth II, been affected by wars and rebellions, inspired song and plays, even played host to Bagpuss the cat.

"People love the city, whether they are residents or visitors.

"When I was researching the book everyone I spoke to was so enthusiastic about the place and so interested in everything I had to say about what I had learned.

"To know the street you live on was named for a king or the

pub you walk by every day once had a body found inside its walls may not have a practical benefit in terms of making you richer or more successful, but it connects you to the world around you. It makes you appreciate more just how lucky we are to live in a country with such a rich heritage that is so easily accessible.

"I hope my book will allow more people to appreciate just how wonderfully exciting and interesting Canterbury is."

And she added: "Now I have finished my PhD, I am hoping to do more work with public engagement and outreach.

"I have a couple of other books I am working on, including one about Kent's rebellious reputation."

■ **More news and sport at** www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

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OPINION

Society must offer hope to all

The Bishop of Dover, **Rt Revd Trevor Willmott**, sees the Easter story as a shining example which communities can use to help troubled youth

I HAVE a fridge magnet that reads: What if the hokey cokey is all it's about?

This simple question reflects at a deeper level the darkness and sense of hopelessness many people feel across our world.

Humanity will always live in the shadow of death, but the early months of this year have reminded us of this fact all too starkly.

The violence in Syria; the continuing rising death toll in Afghanistan; natural disasters such as the recent cyclones in Madagascar which bring untold misery and yet rarely feature on the front pages of newspapers or television.

In so many places in our country, people are also finding themselves grieving, isolated, alone, anxious and unsure of what the future holds for them.

Many long for a ray of light to pierce the darkness and for new possibilities to emerge.

The recent report on the riot-

ing which happened in London and in other cities last summer, suggests that through lack of support and opportunity young people feel hopeless about the future. According to youth group leaders, teenagers have been rioting because they "feel let down by society".

The independent panel's chairman Darra Singh, who authored the report, agreed.

"We must give everyone a stake in society. When people don't feel they have a reason to stay out of trouble, the consequences for communities can be devastating," she said.

The report recommends actions society can take to help prevent riots and build a better society.

Steps include local authorities flagging up and working with children from the age of 11 who are at risk of being unemployed adults, asking 'big brands' to reduce their marketing to children, and working

with schools and parents to help build 'character' in children.

Whilst all of these measures will help, I believe we all have a role to play in strengthening our communities and helping young people re-claim their 'stake' in society and regain their hope.

Those in work can encourage their organisations to offer work experience and jobs to young people; those with spare time can volunteer for charities that provide programmes for the disadvantaged; even the house-bound can help by praying for society. Together we can take an interest in our young people, seeking not to dehumanise them or discount them as 'worthless', but see them as individuals deeply valued by God who, when offered hope and purpose, can work with us to improve society.

Into our world, into this world which can sometimes seem so dark, the Easter story



6699

We have a role to play in helping young people regain hope...

shines light of hope. It is a light which reminds us that we are not alone, that darkness can never be the final statement.

The Easter story is after all, about hope borne out of despair.

After Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, the first disciples did not believe He would rise from the dead; that light would outshine darkness; that hope would triumph.

But in the power of the risen Jesus, his disciples began to give voice to the voiceless and the oppressed. They looked out of themselves and their own immediate needs and became agents of peace, reconciliation and hope to the world.

Easter invites us to celebrate our lives by giving them away to a higher purpose. To live without fear. To be fully alive.

Easter invites us to love first and ask questions later.

■ **With every blessing this Easter, The Rt Revd Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover.**

KOS COMMENT

Remember: Age is nothing but a number

THE report released this week claiming elderly cancer patients may not be getting the treatment they deserve is as distressing as it is shocking.

Most of us will know someone aged over 75 and the thought of them not being given potentially life-saving treatment simply because they're considered 'over the hill' is appalling.

True, some elderly people will not be able to cope with surgery or chemotherapy, but that's not to say every person over 75 should be dismissed from having the option.

There are elderly people still working and some even running marathons.

How many times do to hear the saying 'age is nothing but a number'? – perhaps the NHS should take note.

Enjoy the bank holiday

THE beautiful weather from last week may have disappeared almost as soon as it arrived, but with a four-day weekend upon us I'm sure most people won't mind.

Enjoy the bank holidays, tuck into those chocolate eggs, and have a happy Easter.

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Picture of an
orange-tipped
butterfly
by John Jeffery,
from Cranbrook



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Just browsing
a real problem

CAMPAIGNERS against the 'database state' have condemned the Coalition government's newly-revealed plans to extend snooping on internet users.

The Home Office has confirmed that it plans to force Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to record everyone's web browsing, email, gaming and chat use.

The authorities could then demand access to full details of anyone's internet use without warrants or judicial oversight.

Conservative and Liberal Democrat MPs strongly criticised the previous Labour government in 2009, when it proposed storing records of everyone's internet use under the Interception Modernisation Programme.

However, the Coalition now wants to bring in even more intrusive real-time

snooping under the new Communications Capabilities Development Programme.

Under these plans, bureaucrats at job centres, local councils, the Office of Fair Trading, and even the Charity Commission, would be able to spy on everything you are doing online, and you would never know when you are being watched.

And nobody else would either, because none of this would need a warrant.

These are powers the East German Stasi or North Korean dictators could only dream of. What became of the Coalition's promises to restore privacy and roll back the database state?

Ian Taylor,
coordinator of NO2ID for
Dover and East Kent

Out-of-town
is not for Gills

I HAVE just read the article on the relocation on Gillingham

FC (April 1) and it was superb.

Having been a Gills supporter since 1959, and travelled to away games for nine years in the 70s and 80s, I have been to many of these so-called out-of-town grounds – and none of them work.

I went to Brighton's new stadium earlier this season and although very nice, it is not the Goldstone ground.

As the late Gills chairman Dr Clifford Grossmark stated, a football ground should be surrounded by roof tops and chimneys.

I wait to see what Mr Scally does next – in fact so do most Gills supporters.

Roger Triggs,
Gillingham FC historian

Bad to worse –
and back again

IS IT any surprise that George Galloway can get a landslide victory in the Bradford by-election, when both Ed (bandwagon) Miliband and

David (slippery when wet) Cameron totally refuse to listen to voters.

As Robert Standing, (Letters, March 31) has found, they don't want to know.

Labour claimed, after each by-election failure, "now we're really going to listen", but were too busy talking at us to hear.

Mr Cameron promised us "a bonfire of all the quangos", "revision of human rights", "an end to fat cat pay and cronyism" etc, etc, but is now deep in his bunker hiding from the people he made those promises to. You need more than a posh suit and a posh voice to run a country.

I've been writing to Mr Cameron for years and his Cabinet, together with Mr Miliband and his motley crew, but answers, there are none.

Once Labour and Tory gain power we don't exist; we have no function other than to pay for their abusing of our trust and waste of our hard-earned money.

We need a sea change and for people to stop voting for more of the same, because that's what we keep getting, to the detriment of all of us in this country.

Phil Grange, West Malling

Why keep us
in the dark?

ANY hope MP Damian Collins had of conning the voters of Dungeness and Romney Marsh that his government could build a new nuclear plant at Dungeness some time in the future have surely now evaporated, following the decision by two major German companies to withdraw from investing in nuclear power stations in the UK.

Quite clearly the Coalition's ambivalent policy towards nuclear power has led to E.ON and RWE's decision to withdraw from investing in nuclear power in the UK.

The Liberal Democrats can't support nuclear power, and

the Tories can't bribe private enterprise heavily enough to invest in nuclear power given their failing economic policies.

Mr Collins should therefore come clean and tell his constituents that for the foreseeable future the prospect of Dungeness C is merely a pipe dream on his behalf and not a reality.

A victim of his government's failure to bring growth to the economy, and its abject inability to find funds to invest in our country's energy needs, when reducing corporation tax for multinational corporations, is considered a far more important priority by David Cameron, George Osborne and this cabinet of millionaires.

Donald Worsley,
Chairperson Folkestone
and Hythe Labour Party

Nominate that
awesome one

WORLD Autism Awareness Day on April 2 was a chance to raise awareness of autism and celebrate those unsung heroes who have made the world a better place for people affected by the condition.

Autism is a serious, lifelong and disabling condition that affects one in 100 people across the UK.

Back in the 1960s, people with autism were often labelled as 'uneducable' or 'psychotic'.

But over the last 50 years there has been great progress in the way society understands and supports people with the condition. Much of this progress is down to the work, commitment and love of countless people who dedicate themselves to making a real impact for autism.

This year, to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day and the 50th birthday of the National Autistic Society (NAS), the charity is asking people to nominate someone who has been 'Awesome for Autism' over the last 50 years.

Your nominee could be someone who has changed your life personally, or someone who has changed the world for people with the condition.

I urge as many people as possible to get involved on World Autism Awareness Day by visiting www.autism.org.uk/awesome.

Sam Davis,
Tunbridge Wells

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**



What's mine is yours – is not always the case

Q AM I correct in thinking that if two people hold a joint building society account, then if one dies, all money in that account automatically belongs to the surviving account holder, with no need for the account to be included in the deceased's estate? A solicitor has told me he does not like joint building society accounts.

A You are at least half right. When one joint account holder dies, the survivor automatically becomes sole owner of everything in the account. But this is not the same as saying that the account need not be listed among the deceased's other assets when any liability for inheritance tax is calculated. Normally, half the account will be deemed to belong to the deceased, so it could be subject to inheritance tax if the deceased's overall estate tops the tax starting point, which is currently £325,000. Of course, if the joint account holders are married, there is no inheritance tax to worry about because bequests between spouses are exempt. I suspect your solicitor dislikes joint accounts because they can raise questions. For example, an elderly person might put the name of their son or daughter on an account, just for convenience, so bills can be paid or cash drawn. The taxman might not regard this as a 'genuine' joint account, and might insist that the entire account goes into the elderly person's estate on death.

Q A GARAGE adjacent to our cul-de-sac decided to operate a 24-hour call-out service, causing noise in the night. One resident complained and got his house placed in a lower council tax bracket. I found out and got my council tax reduced as well, but the officials involved took no initiative themselves to alter any resident's tax bill.

A HOUSES all over England were placed in council tax bands based on their value in 1991. Your home was in Band C and you got it moved to the cheaper Band B, reducing your tax. How do I know this? Because I have just checked your council tax band and the bands of all your neighbours as well. This is public information, and other readers might like to see whether their neighbours have managed to get their house into cheaper tax bands. If so, they may be able to do the same and save a fortune in tax. Values were set by the government's Valuation Office Agency. Go to its website at www.voa.gov.uk and click on Check Your Council Tax Band. Then enter your postcode, and up will pop the council tax details of all the

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



properties in the area. If you do this yourself, you will see that some of your own neighbours are still in the more expensive Band C. Perhaps you could show them this and save them some money.

Q HAS the Government withdrawn its safety guarantee from Northern Rock savers? If so, would we be well advised to move our money out?

A THE guarantee began when the Government rescued Northern Rock in 2007 – but it ended in 2010, except for fixed-term accounts that were already in force. Treat it now like any other bank or building society, covered by the industry-wide safety net for up to £85,000 of savings.

Q WHY does the Halifax Isa pay 4.5pc interest if I invest for five years, but only 4.25pc for three years? Why are they not the same?

A THE Halifax expects interest rates generally will rise, and that by the fourth and fifth years, it will be able to pay 4.5pc and still make a decent profit by lending your money to borrowers.

Q MY elderly father has shares in Automotive Precision, but has heard nothing from the company for a long time.

A SORRY, but Automotive Precision collapsed several years ago. The taxman has regarded the shares as worthless since January, 2005.

Q I SHALL be 60 next year, but will not now get my state pension until 2017. Can I still stop paying national insurance at 60?

A NATIONAL insurance contributions only cease when you reach the state pension age, so I am afraid your payments will continue until 2017.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Supply and demand's a tariff we all have to pay

With fuel bills rising, switching energy providers can save you hundreds of pounds a year, but many people have still not taken action. **ADAM AIKEN** reports

IT might not feel like it, but there has been a raft of price cuts in the domestic-energy market recently.

Times remain tough for many people, which is why the lower prices for gas and electricity might have gone unnoticed, but tariffs have indeed fallen.

Another reason why the moves may have gone unnoticed is that people who pay their bills by direct debit often pay a fixed amount each month. In other words, the outstanding balances have fallen, but that has not yet translated into monthly savings in our bank accounts.

So what has happened recently – and, more importantly, what is in store for households over the coming months?

What has happened?

All the energy price cuts announced recently have now been implemented, but those cuts have failed to offset the steep increases we saw last autumn. Prices remain high.

"Households are still paying more for their gas and electricity," said Clare Francis, of Moneysupermarket.com.

"Gas prices rose by 17pc on average last year, while electricity costs went up 10pc. The latest round of price cuts has seen gas fall by only 5pc on average, and electricity by 5.5pc. As a result, annual bills are about £120 higher than they were this time last year."

One notable thing about the recent round of price reductions was that none of the big suppliers cut both gas and electricity suppliers. Some – such as Npower and Scottish Power – reduced their gas tariffs, while E.ON slashed only the price of electricity. Ann Robinson, of Uswitch.com, said: "The hope was suppliers would follow up with a chunkier double-digit cut that would make a more noticeable dent in the average household energy bill. But price cuts this year have been like a drop in the ocean as far as consumers are concerned."

What will happen next?

"Incredibly, even as the last supplier cut its prices – SSE, last week – Ovo Energy, a small supplier, was announcing a price increase of 7.7pc," said Mrs Robinson.

"Now, the concern is that instead of relieving pressure on consumers by cutting prices for a second time, the big six suppliers will sit tight to see what the future holds on the wholesale market."

Ovo's move is significant because



BURNING ISSUE: There are fears fuel bills are set to increase later in the year

CUT THE COST OF YOUR ENERGY

Move to dual fuel

If you are part of a household that uses both gas and electricity, it will always be cheaper for you to take both from the same supplier, because you will qualify for a discount.

Pay by direct debit

Suppliers like to know they are getting regular payments from their customers, and setting up a direct debit also means they do not have the hassle of sending out regular demands for payment or handling cheques.

Switch to an online plan or a fixed-price tariff

An online account is the same as any other tariff, except for the fact you manage your account via the internet. Most energy providers will charge you less simply for running your account this way. If you opt for a fixed price instead, you are guaranteed to be protected from future price rises for the term of your lock-in. Beware, though, that this also means you would not feel the benefits of any price reductions during this period.

it has been one of the most vocal critics of price rises by its competitors, and it has made major efforts to distinguish itself from its larger rivals.

The fear now is that if even Ovo feels obliged to pass on price rises, the other players in the market are unlikely to cut their own tariffs further.

Mrs Robinson said: "For those who are concerned about prices going up again, there are some very competitive fixed-price plans that will cut your costs and protect you."

"However, if prices do fall again you will probably not benefit, so you need to weigh this up."

Ms Francis agreed that the future looked a little gloomy.

"While retail prices might have nudged down recently, the future is one of rising rather than falling energy costs, and we could well see another round of price increases before the end of the year," she said.

"Therefore, even though we're heading into summer and energy bills might not be at the forefront of people's minds, it's well worth making sure you are on the most competitive price plan available."

"About 15 million households have never switched their energy providers, and as such will be paying the standard prices. As a result, they will be paying more than they need for their gas and electricity."

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Your business is our business

The new company that's based on a very traditional resource

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Boulden family have farmed on Romney Marsh for six generations but are now branching out with a new business based on one of the unique landscape's great traditional resources – sheep.

Christina Boulden is launching Romney Marsh Wools, which will be offering items made from the fleece of the family's flock, including clothing, gifts and a range of beauty products.

She has already been awarded Best Product Of The Year by the magazine Country Living. She started the enterprise by showing her products locally before contacting established outlets to sell via specialist high-end stores.

Boulden, who has a background in retail, will launch her company, which she will run with husband Paul, on Thursday, April 12. It will be based at the couple's farm near Aldington.

"We currently have a flock of around 1,000 pedigree Romney Marsh sheep which have been bred for meat and wool," she said.

"We also have some Merino sheep, which are world-famous for their very soft and fine wool, as well as being quite unusual in Britain.

"The fleeces of both breeds are ideal for knitwear, yarn and cloth and we have produced a range of hand-crafted throws, knee-rugs and cushions as



SPINNING A YARN: Christina Boulden and her husband Paul are branching out into a new business – Romney Marsh Wools

well as footwear and some gift items. The fleeces also produce a substance called lanolin which we have used to create a range of soaps, hand and body lotions and shampoos."

Boulden said she spent some time looking for a business idea and tried out some of her products at local events, achieving a positive reaction from such items as curtains made from wool.

After the fleeces are sheared, the

natural oils are extracted and the wool hand-woven by experienced weavers working in the traditional way.

It takes about six months for a fleece to be turned into an item that can be bought from the shop.

"Sustainability and renewable resources are very important, so I felt that produces which had originated on the farm and then marketed from the same place would have a strong appeal," said



Boulden. "It's a new aspect which has grown from a traditional business. Romney Marsh sheep are famous throughout the world for their hardiness and have been an important factor in the rural economy of this area for centuries.

"And while we are looking to the future we have kept the traditional Romney Marsh shepherd's crook as part of our logo."

NETWORKING

Jelly Group offers you new home from home

HOMEWORKERS, small-business owners, freelancers and entrepreneurs are invited to the Margate Jelly Group, which is open for business at Westgate Pavilion, Sea Road, Westgate.

The company is named after the jelly beans that two New York freelancers were eating when they came up with the concept of 'jelly groups', which bring together people who would usually work on their own.

Since its creation in 2006, groups have sprung up worldwide

The Margate Jelly is for those who miss the interaction and buzz of an office environment and aims to meet once or twice a month at a venue in Margate or Westgate.

This meeting is being organised by local firm Speedie Consultants Limited.

"Isolation is one of the biggest challenges of working from home. Jelly is a friendly way for homeworkers to get out of their home office for a change of scene, a good chat and a shot of inspiration," said founder Jason Hulott.

■ Visit <http://margatejelly.eventbrite.co.uk> to book a ticket.

AWARDS

Sunday Times agrees travel firm offers workers that little bit extra

HYTHE firm Holiday Extras has been recognised in the Sunday Times 100 Best Companies To Work For survey, being listed at number 45 and achieving two-star accreditation for the first time.

It is the sixth year the company has been listed in the mid companies category.

The list is based on research into workplace engagement and is the largest of its kind. For 2012, more than 245,000 employees were surveyed from 828 organisations.

Anouk Agussol, head of people for Holiday Extras, said: "Over the past year we have worked hard, focusing on

making Holiday Extras an amazing place to work.

"People engagement has been top of the priority list, with massive impact being felt across the business as a result of changes implemented from our engagement questionnaire.

"Subsequent plans have been actioned relating to feedback, business alignment, leadership and well-being, to name just a few.

"To be awarded two stars, which is an 'outstanding' accreditation, is a fantastic achievement for us all.

"Every person who works at Holiday Extras has helped to make this happen."



INFORMATION

An enterprising effort to give expert advice

WEST Kent businesses can benefit from free advice from a successful business-support organisation that's coming to the district for the first time.

Sevenoaks District Council has teamed up with Enterprise First so the district's businesses can take advantage of its vast expertise and services.

This was made possible after Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership secured £5,000 to fund the organisation's work.

Since it was started in 1981, Enterprise First has helped thousands of companies and will provide one-to-one support, advice, workshops and mentoring to local existing businesses and start-ups.

Carol Clark, the council's cabinet member for economic development, said: "During these tough economic times we believe it is important to be able to provide our businesses with expert advice to help them give them a competitive edge.

"This is a great opportunity and open for both existing and new businesses."

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Business Week

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FOOD RESEARCH

Scientists show China fruits of their labours

FOUR East Malling Research strawberry scientists have given fellow fruit professionals from across the globe a taste of their work during a conference.

Dr David Simpson, Professor Xiangming Xu, Adam Whitehouse and Abi Johnson were all invited to the five-day Strawberry Symposium, held in Beijing, China, to deliver presentations on their research and findings.

The seventh international symposium was the largest yet, attended by more than 1,000 delegates, including scientists and industry representatives from every strawberry-producing nation.

Held every four years, the event provides a meeting point for the industry's leading researchers and academics as well as international and domestic producers.

The experts gave their peers an insight into East Malling Research's growing projects as well as their efforts to protect the soft fruit against infection and improve yields and water efficiency.

Dr Simpson, who has been researching strawberry-growing at East Malling since 1983, said: "There were many discussions about opportunities for collaboration involving scientists from Asia, Europe, Australia and North America. These will now be followed up to develop joint initiatives suitable for international funding."

The work of the establishment has also been recognised in the UK.

Caroline Spelman, Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, referenced EMR's work at the Oxford Farming Conference, while Lord Taylor of Holbeach, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at Defra, said during a visit to the site last month: "EMR has been at the forefront of many scientific advances in horticulture which have made an important contribution to the production of fruit and vegetables in the UK."

"We need to produce more food to feed a growing global population. Scientific research to improve food production while protecting the environment is crucial to meeting that challenge."

Prof Peter Gregory, chief executive of EMR, said: "Attending the symposium and hosting visits by the likes of Lord Taylor will help to maintain our reputation as a global centre of expertise for research."

"East Malling is well placed to work with growers and the wider fresh-produce industry to adapt to climate change, and to use resources more efficiently."

So what next for Thanet in search for success?

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

IT'S the question seemingly without end: what can be done to spark the Thanet economic recovery? And it's a question that has now been put to 40 businesses on the isle, which responded that renewable energies, Manston airport and increased popularity with tourists offered the greatest economic opportunities.

The survey of companies, which have a combined turnover of more than £250 million, was undertaken by Locate in Kent on behalf of the Thanet Business Forum, a new grouping of the area's larger companies, chambers of commerce and the Institute of Directors.

When asked to identify the main opportunities for economic growth over the next five years, 21 per cent of the businesses that responded said they existed in supplying the wind-farm and renewable-energy sector, while 19 per cent of respondents felt the greatest potential for growth lay at Manston airport.

The third-biggest response, 14 per cent, identified growth in tourism, building on the success of Turner Contemporary, as the way forward.

With regard to the area's needs, 25 per cent of respondents identified the failure to attract suitably-qualified staff as the greatest barrier to the business community in Thanet.

Another 22 per cent of respondents believed the greatest threat was down to the lack of finance to support business growth, along with escalating costs, while 20 per cent identified the poor transport links and connectivity as the main reason holding back Thanet's economy.

When asked whether they were expecting to expand over the next three years, three-quarters of the firms (74 per cent) believed they would, with the remaining 26 per cent expecting to stay the same size and none expecting to reduce the size of their business.

Positively, 45 per cent of respondents felt they would need additional space for their business; however, less than one in five of these businesses, 17 per cent, felt their existing site could accommodate anticipated growth.

As a result, Locate in Kent is confident that Thanet's commercial property market can expect growing interest and demand over the coming few years.

Established late last year, the Thanet Business Forum has declared its ambition to be a voice for



THE BRIGHTEST LIGHTS? It is hoped that Margate's Turner Contemporary can help turn the isle's tide

Thanet's major employers. The forum's members are committed to strengthening relations between companies and key stakeholders, as well as to delivering a strong, vibrant economy by fostering partnerships and collaboration.

Challenging the misconception that businesses on the island were insular, the survey showed that 39 per cent exported their goods and services, above the county average of 8 per cent, according to Kent County Council. Of those businesses that don't export, 16 per cent said they were planning to do so in the future.

Frank Martin, chief executive of Hornby Plc and a member of the forum, said: "We have successfully grown our business by focusing on what we do best and rising to the challenge of selling our products on the world stage."

"Thanet needs to focus on key sectors that will

deliver real career opportunities for our residents. If we are to grow the local economy and create jobs, business needs to foster better relationships with the local authorities and residents, and vice versa."

Frank Thorley, of Thorley Taverns, another member of the forum, said: "The survey offers a glimpse of optimism, despite the very real pressures that many businesses are under."

"When the forum met Clive Hart, leader of Thanet District Council, it was clear he was eager to hear the views of businesses. As a group we recognise that when it comes to the Thanet economy, doing nothing is not an option."

The forum survey follows figures that show 6.2 per cent of the Thanet workforce is claiming unemployment benefit, compared with a Kent average of 3.5 per cent.

Small businesses show resilience but change is vital for the future

DESPITE tough economic conditions, new figures show that seven in 10 small businesses have introduced new or improved products and services over the past two years, but the economy is preventing six in 10 from achieving growth this year.

In the Voice Of Small Business member survey, 68 per cent of small businesses have introduced new or improved products or services over the past two years – 15 per cent higher than in 2009, showing that small businesses have been resilient during the downturn.

The figures have been compiled by the Federation of Small Businesses.

They show 58 per cent of small firms said they were looking to grow over the next 12 months – 43 per cent moderately and 11 per cent rapidly.

Of the 11,000 respondents to the survey, three-quarters (74 per cent) wanted to increase their client base, 57 per cent said they expected to increase their online presence and a quarter (26 per cent) wanted to increase their staff base.

However, two-thirds said that the economy was the biggest barrier in achieving this; 16 per cent said poor broadband was a barrier; more than a third (36 per cent) said employment taxes held them back; and 13 per cent

cited recruiting and training as an issue.

The FSB has been calling on the Government to turn words into action so that small firms can grow.

The FSB is urging Government to:

- Set out a clear commitment to deploy superfast broadband across all of the UK and say how it will avoid a two-tier broadband access in rural and urban areas.

- Be bolder in its changes to existing employment law to incentivise employment and think small first when responding to the Modern Workplaces consultation.

- Ensure all public agencies follow

the lead of central government and pay all invoices to small firms within 10 days and that all contractors that the public sector uses pay their sub-contractors within the same time, as 41 per cent say cash-flow is a barrier.

- Bring down the barriers that stop small businesses getting their fair share of Government procurement contracts. Six in 10 of FSB members say there are barriers for small firms in bidding for public-sector contracts.

- Simplify the tax regime, a barrier for 38 per cent of small businesses.

- Promote alternative sources of finance: obtaining finance is an issue for 21 per cent of small firms.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway said: "These figures show the small business community has remained resilient even in the ongoing tough economic climate. The smallest businesses have remained focused on growth and shown tenacity in bringing new products and services to market."

"With businesses confidence at a low, it is not surprising that the state of the economy is seen as the biggest obstacle to achieving growth over the next 12 months. The Government must take some big leaps and introduce bold measures to drive growth."

Training, courses and careers

Girls encouraged into engineering

THE University of Greenwich at Medway has hosted an event to encourage schoolgirls to consider a career in engineering.

Nearly 40 girls aged 13 and 14 years old visited the university's school of engineering. They are all pupils at Robert Napier School in Gillingham, Holmesdale Technology College in Snodland, or Plumpstead Manor in south east London.

The students tried different engineering activities including product development, marine engineering, tower building, and printed circuit board manufacture.

They were welcomed by David Israel, admissions co-ordinator for the school of engineering which is based in Chatham Maritime, who explained that engineers work in all kinds of environments, from offices, laboratories and film studios to outdoors and underground.

Engineering is closely linked with all types of technology and plays a major role in many technological devices and advances.

The pupils were then given an insight into civil engineering as a career, with presentations from civil engineer Melanie Fuller, lecturer Deborah Sims, and current student Jessica Spain. They learned how technical, managerial and communication skills are developed at university and then used in industry.

Motoring students in the driving seat

FOURTEEN motor vehicle students have gained an insight into the motor industry with a visit to a local car dealership.

Students from Octopus Opportunities, a vocational education centre for Medway, visited Dagenham Motors Gillingham, in Pier Road, to learn more about the motor industry and the career opportunities available.

The 14 and 15 year old students had the opportunity to learn about the roles and functions of working in new and used car sales before enjoying a tour of the service and after-sales departments.

The dealership also offered students the chance to learn more about the technology used in the latest models, and were treated to a demonstration of the new 'active park assist' technology which enables the Ford Focus to park by itself at a touch of a button.

Tutor Jon Whitfield said: "The students really enjoyed touring the Dagenham Motors dealership and witnessing all the different career paths on offer. Meeting the staff at Dagenham Motors and experiencing a working dealership was really inspiring for our students and I know they gained a lot from the opportunity."

Apprenticeship places set to keep on increasing

BUSINESSES in Kent and the South East that operate apprenticeship schemes are set to increase the number of apprentices they employ before the summer, according to research conducted by Clydesdale Bank.

The bank's survey, which questioned more than 1,000 businesses, shows that more than a third (37 per cent) of South East businesses operate an apprenticeship scheme, with 10 per cent expecting to increase the number of apprentices they employ this year.

While 40 per cent of the region's businesses expect overall staffing levels to remain flat this year, the vast majority (83 per cent) agree the use of apprentices is a good way to develop new talent.

Will Lindsay, regional director south for Clydesdale Bank, said: "For decades many businesses have used apprenticeship schemes as a vital way of transferring skills and offering alternative routes to employment for young people, particularly in sectors such as manufacturing and service-based industries. "With more young people now choosing not to go to university but looking to tackle the world of work early, it is important this young talent is captured by the South East's businesses."

Official figures issued by the Office for National Statistics show that applications for UK universities last year dropped by nearly nine per cent, largely due to the introduction of higher tuition fees.

Youth unemployment (16 to

24-year-olds) currently stands at 22.5 per cent, the highest percentage since records began in 1992.

However, according to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, last year more than 457,200 apprentices started new schemes – a 63 per cent increase on the previous year.

Mr Lindsay's comments come shortly after a Government announcement which pledged £3.5 million to help train 1,000 new apprenticeships in energy efficiency positions.

A House of Commons select committee is also examining how small and medium size enterprises can best use apprenticeship

schemes, while the Apprenticeships and Skills (Public Procurement) Bill is being considered by MPs which will require certain public procurement contracts issued by public bodies to include a commitment by the contractor to provide apprenticeships and skills training.

In recent years there has been a growing appreciation and interest in apprenticeships.

This year's National Apprenticeship Week 2012 was billed as the most successful ever, thanks to an unprecedented level of support from partners and customers.

Organisers say that every year the week, which is designed to celebrate apprenticeships and their positive impact, increases in popularity, and this year was no exception.



JOBS: Kent businesses are set to increase the number of apprentices they employ

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

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Schools & education

Construction company trainee Tom wins prestigious scholarship award

A TRAINEE engineer studying at MidKent College has won a prestigious scholarship from a leading industry body.

Tom Roffey, 24, from Maidstone, is one of just three students in the South East to have been awarded the £1,500 Quest Technician Scholarship.

Funded by the Institution of Civil Engineers, the scheme aims to encourage high-calibre entrants into the profession and on to membership of the body.

Tom, who works for the con-

struction firm Clancy Docwra, spends one day a week studying for his higher national diploma in civil engineering at MidKent College's Maidstone Campus.

He said: "I started as a pipe-layer at Clancy Docwra but they've fast-tracked me through thanks to this course. I wouldn't be where I am today without it; it's been a big help."

"It's exciting to have been awarded the scholarship and it will be put to good use. Because I'm at college I'm obviously only

working four days a week so the extra cash will come in handy."

The HND in civil engineering is one of a number of higher education courses offered by MidKent College.

Other subjects available include applied science, business, computing and IT, and engineering, with seven new qualifications also due to be launched later this year.

Civil engineering lecturer Daniel McLeish said: "Tom has shown a great deal of potential."

Women brush up their skills to take on the man's world of decorating

HIRE a painter and decorator and the chances are it will be a man who turns up at your door.

But while the industry will probably always be male-dominated, an increasing number of female workers are now enjoying the benefits of learning a construction trade.

For example, four female students are currently enrolled on the Level 1 Diploma in painting and decorating course at MidKent College's Medway campus.

"The level of workmanship they display is outstanding and their attitudes are excellent," said lecturer Doug Warren.

"There's no reason at all why more women shouldn't consider careers in painting and decorating. The four girls on my course have really set the way for the lads to follow."

"It would be a big plus to have more women in the industry, especially for single mums or elderly people who might feel more confident letting women into their homes."

Television stars Amanda Lamb, Anna Ryder Richardson and Linda Barker have become synonymous with home improvement shows in recent years, and Mr Warren said that had



PAINTING LADIES: Some of the women students

helped boost the number of female students.

He added: "Decorating is the finished article after all the other construction work has been finished, and a lot of women possess the panache needed to be very good at it."

Other construction craft subjects available at MidKent College include carpentry and joinery, brickwork, and bench joinery.

Danielle Gatter, 18, from Chatham, is one of the four females on the painting and decorating course and already produces work of a "professional standard" according to her lecturer. She said: "A lot of girls think it's a male profession but there's no reason why we can't do just as well."

Close-up views for science school students with gift of microscope

STUDENTS at St Anselms School have taken delivery of a new microscope for their science laboratory.

The equipment, worth £650 was donated by BMI The Chaucer Hospital in Canterbury after decommissioning the pathology department microscope.

Executive Director at BMI The Chaucer Hospital Richard Coggings said: "While the microscope has been kept in excellent working order it was no

longer required for use in our hospital.

"We strive to constantly improve the equipment and facilities available to our staff and patients and unfortunately this often means that perfectly good equipment has to be sold off or scrapped to make way for new."

"Rather than scrapping it, it will now be used to inspire the next generation of doctors, and scientists in our local community."

Headteacher at Canterbury's St Anselms, Mike Walters explained: "As a specialist science school, we are always looking for ways to expand the experiences of our students and this equipment will help us to do this."

"This is a good example of how local schools and healthcare providers can work in partnership and we welcome the help and support of the staff at BMI The Chaucer Hospital."

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Biggin Hill
01689 880 497

Canterbury
01795 886 097

Chatham, Walderslade
01634 682 760

East Malling and Gravesend
01622 728 214

Orpington
020 8325 2250

KUMON

Fees vary. Please refer to your local study centre.

kumon.co.uk

HISTORICALLY YOU



Times have changed but the importance of well-trained youngsters stays the same

NOWADAYS there are superb opportunities for young people when it comes to getting a foothold in the workplace. College and university courses, night school, home study and apprenticeships are all available when it comes to achieving new skills and broadening horizons.

Across the country the scope for those wanting to learn after their schooling is at an all-time high – and businesses are even coming into schools to tell pupils what it is that industry really needs.

But it hasn't always been that way.

The Victorians sent children up chimneys and down the mines – so things have changed for the better!

Now company in-house training gives experienced mentoring to newcomers who learn best practice in the workplace – and just

as importantly what to avoid.

College placements and night school give students the chance to learn away from the workplace and mix with other young people who have broadly similar aspirations. A culture of mutual help and cooperation develops, which leads back to a chance for individual growth and self-expression.

The UK has a proud tradition when it comes to encouraging workplace talent to flourish.

Legislation came into force in the late 19th century to stop the exploitation of child labour, and apprenticeships came into being.

They spread from artisan trades such as building and printing to the newer industries of engineering and shipbuilding, and later to plumbing and electrical work.

Although there were some 240,000 apprentices by the mid-1960s, there were growing concerns about the effectiveness of

apprenticeship training.

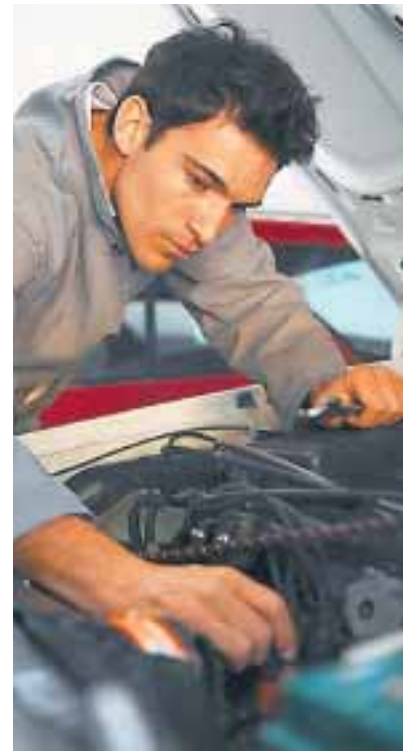
It was criticised for its exclusivity, for being male-dominated, for focusing on serving time rather than on outcomes, and for a failure to embrace new and expanding occupations.

Since the mid-1990s, governments have been rebuilding the programme.

There were 279,700 apprenticeship starts in the 2009-10 academic year in England, compared with 239,900 in 2008-09.

Completion rates – which once indicated severe problems with recruitment practice and quality – have been transformed as 171,500 people successfully completed an apprenticeship in 2009-10 compared with 143,400 in 2008-09.

Now with practical training complemented by academic learning and a greater participation of industry and commerce in school and college life, the prospects of maximising potential are there for all young people to enjoy.



Supply and demand makes Three R's a teacher's best friend

THREE R's teacher recruitment has been established since 2001 and has offices in Ashford, Medway and Tonbridge.

Three R's specialises in teaching jobs in Kent on a daily, long-term or permanent basis in primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools.

A spokesman said: "We can provide subject-specific general cover, Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 teachers and cover supervisors.

"We pride ourselves on our honest, reliable and friendly service and our exceptionally high standards.

"The last 12 months has seen some

of our greatest achievements.

"In December 2011, we celebrated our 10th birthday, a massive achievement for the entire team to be associated with a Kent business that has a decade of experience and knowledge in the recruitment sector.

"There is a selection of many teachers we have worked with for several years, some from 2001.

"Supply-teaching offers flexibility to a demanding profession and we are proud of the number of placements we have secured for teaching staff in Kent.

"All of the consultants at Three R's

have been awarded the Certificate in Recruitment Practice – a qualification that focuses on the search and selection process, industry law and relationships with clients and candidates.

"In May 2011, the company was short-listed for the Recruitment Employment Confederation IRP Best Small Company To Work For award, one of eight recruitment companies in the UK and the only education-recruitment agency in the category.

"We are also thrilled to announce being short-listed for SME Business of the Year via the Kent Excellence in

Business award. The ceremony for these awards takes place in June.

"Three R's has recently been re-accredited with the DfE Quality Mark after an audit passed with 100 per cent and has held this since 2003.

"This re-accreditation formally acknowledges our commitment to achieving and maintaining the highest of standards in recruitment practice.

"Alongside recruitment practices we have participated in many fund-raising events. Four of our education consultants have completed a charity skydive and we hold regular quiz nights and are currently asking

schools to decide who we donate the funds to.

"We have also worked alongside the Anti Bullying Alliance to promote awareness in Kent schools about bullying.

"The last decade has seen Three R's grow into an established business working alongside many schools in Kent. As a small business we value each of our clients and candidates and our ethos is to treat people as we would like to be treated."

For more information about Three R's Teacher Recruitment, you can phone 0845 130 3338.

WELL CONNECTED



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Sandbanks Care Home



Madeira Lodge



Edendale Care Home



Madeira Day Services

Belmont Sandbanks Care Homes consists of Madeira Lodge, Sandbanks, Edendale EMI residential homes and Madeira Day Services.

Within these settings care is provided for people over 65 years with mental health needs, predominantly dementia. Care is also offered to those under the age of 65 years with a diagnosis of dementia.

There is a registered mental nurse who is available to offer clinical management and supervision to all three sites. Carers undergo all mandatory training courses as required by CQC and also have training and experience in dementia awareness.

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Coast Road, Littlestone-on-sea, New Romney, Kent TN28 8RA. Tel: 01797 366810

MADERA LODGE CARE HOME

Madeira Road, Littlestone-on-sea, New Romney, Kent TN28 8QT. Tel: 01797 363242

EDENDALE CARE HOME

5-6 The Green, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0SY. Tel - 01424 429908

MADERA DAY SERVICES

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- 23 nights respite per year
- Professional pay structure
- Outstanding training programme up to degree level

If you're interested in fostering for Heath Farm, either as a new carer, or if you're perhaps considering transferring from your current agency, then we would love to hear from you.

Phone Sally on 01233 712030 Ext 240 to book an appointment, or to find out more visit our website www.heathfarm.org



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- 28 days' paid annual leave (pro rata)
- No previous experience necessary
- Good written and spoken English

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WELL CONNECTED



NETWORKING

Wealth of opportunity to encourage and develop business connections

WHETHER it is a skilled workforce, cooperative businesses, excellent transport links or a forward-thinking corporate community, Kent is the idea place to work.

Businessmen with companies all across the economic spectrum, partnerships and sole traders can all take advantage of what the county has to offer when it comes to ensuring growth and prosperity.

With such a wide range of businesses, manufacturing, retail and service all working in similar fields, the chances for cooperation are there for all to see.

And top-class transport links make sure that goods can be on their way to markets in double-quick time.

Jo James, of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "No doubt there are counties across the UK who say they are good for business, but here it's twofold: Kent is good for business and business is good for Kent."

"You could ask what makes Kent different from others across the country and from a business perspective that's an easy one. It's not just the excellent transport links, connections to Europe,

abundance of excellent business parks and commercial property, it's all about the people.

"We truly are an entrepreneurial county with an active innovative business community that is envied by many. We work together, not against each other – we all take pride in our county and have learnt the benefits of partnership working.

"We all have a vested interest in



POSITIVE: Jo James of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce says our location is just one of the many benefits of setting up business in the county

making Kent a county of business excellence and a business destination of choice.

"At the heart of our county is certainly our business community, which is the jewel in the county's crown and sets us apart from others."

Expert help in explaining what the

or expansion to the county as easy and seamless as possible.

Having already helped almost 700 companies (188 or 26.7 per cent from overseas) move to or expand in the county and created almost 26,000 jobs, Locate in Kent provides an all-inclusive advice package when it comes to business investment. It understands the complexities involved in relocating and expanding, especially from overseas, and provides a tailored service that simplifies each stage of the process.

It also allows access to location-specific research, local knowledge, specialist contacts and access to a comprehensive commercial property search where you can find office, industrial and warehouse business property in every part of Kent and Medway.

It also has local partners experienced in assisting overseas companies with legal advice, translation and cultural support in their own language.

Kent is ideally situated to benefit from the overseas market.

Excellent rail links provide easy access to Paris and Brussels, with the European network easily reached from these two major hubs.

The Channel ports mean fast and frequent ferry services are within easy reach and always running, while Le Shuttle allows trucks and lorries to get to the Continent in just over half an hour.

The Government has emphasised the importance of export to stimulate growth in the UK economy.

According to Locate in Kent, businesses that trade internationally are more likely to:

- Improve their productivity.
 - Achieve levels of growth not possible domestically.
 - Tend to survive recessions better through spreading the risk of a downturn in a single market, thus increasing the resilience of their revenues and profits.
 - Increase the commercial lifespan of their products and services.
 - Increase the returns on their investment in R&D.
 - Improve their financial performance.
 - Expand the sales of existing products when the UK market is saturated.
 - Become more innovative in new and existing products to compete internationally.
 - Gain more buying power with existing and/or new suppliers through higher sales and achieve other economies of scale not possible domestically.
 - Create better-quality jobs on average and provide more opportunities for staff development and retention.
- Kent's towns have a range of attractive opportunities for businesses, quite apart from their excellent transport links.
- Ashford's placement has ensured it is one of the UK's growth towns and new developments such as the ever-expanding Kings Hill and Kent Science Park are attracting some of the fastest-growing and most forward-looking companies.
- The historic locations of Tunbridge Wells, Canterbury and Rochester provide a ready draw for those who want to build up business in excellent and desirable locations.



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www.churchillcatering.co.uk



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- No previous experience necessary
- Good written and spoken English

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Written applications including CV to:
Babs Knott, Site Administrator, Woodstock House, Winch Road, Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8AG, email b.knott@ksp-uk.com or ring Babs Knott for more details 01795 411500

Closing date: 23rd April 2012



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We are looking for a qualified Nurse (RGN/RMN) to join this exciting multi-agency initiative in Medway. You will work closely with colleagues within the Medway Integrated Prevention Scheme (IPS) and lead on identifying the emotional health needs of young people at the point of arrest/diversion. The focus of the work is to support young people and their families to address their emotional health needs as they are diverted away from offending behaviour through consultation, referral and signposting.

We are looking for someone who has excellent skills in screening/assessment and planning interventions, strong communication skills, and proven experience of working effectively with young people and their families who present with complex needs.

A registered nursing qualification is essential.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from **www.kca.org.uk**. You can also email **recruitment@kca.org.uk** or call **01795 590795** and select option three. Please quote reference number 902 in your application.

Closing date: Friday 13 April 2012. Interview date: TBC

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St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, in collaboration with Canterbury Christchurch University, is inviting applicants to join our Graduate Teacher programme from September 2012 in

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Further details, including an application form, are available from CCCU website. Please follow advice given. All applications must be posted to:

Muireann Casserly
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Rochester Road
Gravesend
DA12 2JW

The closing date for applications is Thursday 12th April 2012. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 17th April 2012.

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HIGHWAYS - BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

QUARRINGTON LANE, MERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of road excavations to lay electrical cables, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Quarrington Lane, Mersham, on or after 10 April 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Bockham Lane and Plumpton.

The road will be closed in 2 separate places, as advised locally and signposted on site.

Initially, the road will be closed in the vicinity of Quarrington Farm, planned for up to 2 days, then in the vicinity of California Farm, for a further 2 days.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

WOOLAGE GREEN ROAD, WOOLAGE GREEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to lay a new electricity cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Woolage Green Road, Woolage Green, on or after 28 April 2012 for up to 2 days.

If it is not possible to complete these works within this period, it may also be necessary to close the road on the weekend of 5 and 6 May 2012.

The road will be closed between properties Walnut Tree Cottage and Sunningdale.

There will be no through access through the village.

The alternative route is via Wick Lane, Firs Road and Woolage Green Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

PRIORY ROAD SOUTH, DARTFORD- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Priory Road South, Dartford between Westgate Road and Victoria Road.

The Order will become effective on 23rd April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week from the hours of 08:00hrs - 17:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Victoria Road, Hythe Street, Westgate Road, Highfield Road North, West Hill, Priory Hill and Priory Place

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Carriageway micro surfacing works

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A256 WHITFIELD HILL, DOVER) (PROHIBITION OF U-TURN) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1(i), 2(i) to (3), 3(2), 4(i) and (2), 32(i), 35(i), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce a Prohibition of U-turns in the following road:

Location	Proposal
A256 Whitfield Hill, Dover	From the junction with the A2 to the junction with London Road, River

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at the Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, Kent

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Traffic Schemes Team, Kent County Council, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD

or by email to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 30 April 2012

CHERRY LANE, MONGEHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Carriageway patching, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cherry Lane, Mongeham, on or after 23 April 2012 for up to 3 days, between 7.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Pixwell Lane and Mongeham Road.

The alternative route is via Mongeham Road and Northbourne Road.

NAPCHESTER ROAD, WHITFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of safe access for phone cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Napchester Road, Whitfield, on or after 24 April 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 41.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with The Drove and Church Whitfield Road.

The alternative route is via The Drove, Sandwich Road and Church Whitfield Road.

OLD CHARLTON ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Old Charlton Road, Dover, on or after 10 April 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Frith Road and Danes Court.

The alternative route is via Connaught Road, Castle Hill, Dover Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

LOWER HIGHAM ROAD/CHALK ROAD, CHALK- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Lower Higham Road/Chalk Road, Chalk from A226 Rochester Road (Lion Roundabout).

The Order will become effective on 26th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 days between the hours of 09:30 - 15:30. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be: For vehicles approaching Chalk Road - A226 Rochester Road. For vehicles to access lower Higham Road - A226 Rochester Road, A226 Gravesend Road, Villa Road, School Lane, Chalk Road and Lower Road

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESHAM) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 9) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 1, 2, 4 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984:

The effect of the Order is to 1) introduce No waiting at any time (double yellow line) restrictions on the following roads or lengths of roads in Gravesend:

Cross Lane East	Central Avenue	Devonshire Road
Clifton Marine Parade (Bhalitic Wharf Section)	Clifton Marine Parade (Thames Way to The Shore)	Thames Way
East Mill	West Street	Stuart Road

2) Introduce No Waiting Mon - Sat between 8am-6.30pm on the northern side of Clifton Marine Parade outside Baltic Wharf.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for making the Order, may be examined between 8.30am and 5pm on Mondays to Fridays at Gravesham Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Windmill St, Gravesend, DA12 1AU and at Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOTTOM POND ROAD WORMSHILL) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bottom Pond Road Wormshill between Pond Farm and Norwood Farm on or after 24th April 2012 when required for a period of up to 2 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Bottom Pond Road, Frinestead Lane/The Street, Glossy Hill Road, Bottom Pond Road and vice versa

Bt apologise for any inconvenience caused by essential cabling works to restore customer service. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Mandy Richardson on 03700500792

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HUNTON ROAD, MARDEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Hunton Road outside Cedardene Farm on or after Tuesday 10th April 2012 for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Hunton Road, East Street, George Street, Brickyard Lane, Redwall Lane, A229 Linton Hill, B2079 Maidstone Road, Underlyn Lane, Green Lane, Hunton Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new culvert. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KINGS LANE, COLLIER STREET) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Kings Lane on or after Tuesday 10th April 2012 for a period of up to 11 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Spenny Lane, B2162 Claygate/Coller Street.

Kent County Council Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to rebuild a culvert. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Stephen Lambert on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KNIGHTRIDER STREET & MOTE ROAD, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Knightrider Street and westbound traffic on Mote Road leading into Knightrider Street on or after Tuesday 10th April 2012 for a period of up to 10 weeks or until such works are complete. The one way order on Knightrider Street is temporarily suspended during the time of the works to allow for access.

The alternative route is via A229 Upper Stone Street/Loose Road/Sheal's Crescent/ Postley Road/Hayle Road/College Road.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is John Adsley on 01233 714082.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (YEOMAN LANE BEARSTED) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Yeoman Lane Bearsted, from The Orchard to near the junction of Oak Croft on or after Wednesday 11th April 2012 when required for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Ware Street, Hogs Hill, Rose Acre lane, Tower lane and vice versa

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by essential pole replacements works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Rachel Cross on 03700500792.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

SKEET HILL LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Skeet Hill Lane from the junction Daltons Road to Junction Gorse Road.

The Order will become effective on 22nd April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 25th April 2012 and will last for approx 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Well Hill, Hawstead Lane, Bucks Cross Road, Chelsfield Lane, Skeet Hill Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT cabling works.

VARIOUS ROADS, EYNSFORD & FARNINGHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, Eynsford and Farningham as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 25th March 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 12 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	High Street, Eynsford Road, Eynsford
Extent:	Northbound from the entrance to Anthony Roper School to the junction with Gorse Hill. Southbound from 150 yards North of Priory Lane up to the entrance to Anthony Roper School.
Diversion:	N/A
Road Name:	High Street, Farningham
Extent:	In both directions between its junction with Eynsford Road and Sparepenny Lane.
Road Name:	Sparepenny Lane, Farningham
Extent 1:	In both directions between its junction with High Street, Farningham and Riverside.
Diversion:	from Wested Lane/Crockenhill Lane via the A20 and Eynsford Road.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



Road Name: Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford
Extent 1: In both directions between Riverside and Lullingstone Castle.
Diversions: N/A
Road Name: Castle Road, Eynsford
Extent 1: In both directions between the South side of the entrance to Lullingstone Park Visitors Centre and the junction with Castle Farm Road.
Diversions: via High Street, Shoreham and the A225.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

DOWNS ROAD PASSAGE, FOLKESTONE (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Downs Road Passage, Folkestone, on or after 23 April 2012 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The closure is for its entire length, from between house numbers 153 and 153A Downs Road to the junction with Park Farm Road.

The alternative route is via the walkway between house numbers 83 and 85 Downs Road, Moat Farm Road, Downside and Park Farm Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHATHAM ROAD AND OLD CHATHAM ROAD AYLESFORD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND SUSPENSION OF ONE-WAY) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an order an Order prohibiting:-

- 1) Southbound traffic on Chatham Road, Aylesford between the northern junction of Old Chatham Road to the southern junction of Old Chatham Road.
- 2) Northbound traffic on Old Chatham Road, Aylesford between the southern junction of Chatham Road to the entrance to the Lower Bell Industrial Estate.

And also suspending the existing northbound traffic only one-way order on Old Chatham Road, Aylesford between the entrance to the Lower Bell Industrial Estate to the northern junction of Chatham Road.

This order will be effective on or after Monday 16th April 2012 when required for a period of up to 3 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative routes for the above are for 1) via Old Chatham Road southbound and 2) via Chatham Road northbound then Old Chatham Road southbound. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Jack Hanger of South East water on 01634 873095

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (COPT HALL ROAD, IGHTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Copt Hall Road Ightham, from the junction of Common Road to Silverdown on or after Thursday 12th April 2012 when required for a period of up to 1 Days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Common Road, Sandy Lane, Coach Road, Sevenoaks Road and Redwell lane and vice versa.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused but it is necessary to enable access to replace telegraph poles. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Louise Skull on 03700500792.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (SUMMERVALE ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Summervale Road between Eastlands and A26 Eridge Road on or after Wednesday 11th April 2012 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A26 Eridge Road, Ramsley Road, Friezland Road, Summervale Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for safety critical carriageway repairs. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Sue Laporte on 08458 247 800.

John Burr
 Director Kent Highways
 Invicta House
 County Hall,
 Maidstone
 Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 8th April 2012

For further information, please contact
 Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
 on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Leas Cliff Hall, The Leas, Folkestone**
 Applicant: **Clive Watson**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
 Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
 Kent History and Library Centre
 James Whatman Way
 Maidstone, ME14 1LQ



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Hazlett Arts Centre, Earl Street, Maidstone**
 Applicant: **Ms Mandy Hare**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
 Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
 Kent History and Library Centre
 James Whatman Way
 Maidstone, ME14 1LQ



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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Theatre Royal, Addington Street, Margate**
 Applicant: **William Wollen**

Name of Premises: **Smith Court Hotel, 21-27 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate**
 Applicant: **Abigail Burton**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
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PLANNING

Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990

Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/11/01541/FUL: Bourne Park Riding Stables, Bourne Park Road, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5JB Erection of temporary dwellings. Applicant: Mr N Smith Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/12/00023/FUL: 62 Harbour Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AG Demolition of single-storey rear extension and erection of two-storey rear extension; use of resulting first-floor accommodation as self-contained flat. Applicant: Mr Graham Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00046/LB: Riverbank, 32 Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UJ Fixing digital dish to rear chimney. Applicant: Mr G Welch Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/12/00202/FUL: Glebe House, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QN Erection of single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. Applicant: Mr R French Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00209/FUL: Greenbanks, Greenhills, Barham, CT4 6LE Single-storey extension to residential care home and alteration/extension of canopy over courtyard. Applicant: Family Investments Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00219/FUL: 1 and 2 Parker Lodge, Regent Street, Whitstable, CT1 1JD Replacement of timber windows with upvc. Applicant: Mr R Gould Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00286/FUL: Hammaro, Parish Road, Chartham, CT4 7JU Retrospective application for the erection of dwelling. (Revised scheme). Applicant: Mr R Cutmore Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00322/FUL: The Manor House, Hardres Court Road, Upper Hardres, CT4 6EL Erection of greenhouse and vine house. Applicant: Lady Marks Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00359/FUL: Woodlands, 9 Puckle Lane, Canterbury, CT1 3JX Roof extension incorporating dormer to front, alteration to rear dormer and canopy roof over entrance porch. Applicant: Mr J Richards Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00373/FUL: Land rear of 24 High Street, Bridge (fronting Dering Road), Bridge, CT4 5JY Erection of two houses and attached garages. Applicant: Mr M Quinn Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00382/FUL: 45 St Stephens Road, Canterbury, CT2 7JD Dormer window to rear elevation to facilitate loft conversion. Applicant: Mr Conlon Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00407/ADV: 14 Rose Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2ST Replacement non-illuminated and illuminated signage. Applicant: The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00416/FUL: Club Chemistry, 15 Station Road East, Canterbury, CT1 2RB Extension to door canopy fronting Station Road East and infill window opening with vinyl panels. Applicant: Club Chemistry Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00417/ADV: Club Chemistry, 15 Station Road East, Canterbury, CT1 2RB Replacement externally illuminated signage. Applicant: Club Chemistry Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00418/FUL: 95 Central Parade, Herne Bay, CT6 5JJ Change of use from bed and breakfast (Use class C1) to single dwelling (Use class C3). Applicant: Mr Tsang Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00423/FUL: Youngs Farm, Catt's Wood Road, Lower Hardres, CT4 5PG Construction of an outbuilding. Applicant: Mr P Bell Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
- CA/12/00427/FUL: Ashburnham, off Mill Lane, Harbledown, CT2 8NF Replacement dwelling and detached garage. Applicant: Mrs L Hunter Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00428/FUL: Bourne Park Riding Stables, Bourne Park Road, Bishopsbourne First-floor extension on south elevation. Applicant: Mrs Jelley Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00433/FUL: Meadowlands, Wootton Drive, Petham, CT4 5WD First-floor rear extension and installation of dormer windows. Applicant: Mr and Mrs R A Jenkins Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00438/LB: 15 High Street, Bridge, CT4 5JZ Removal of second floor ceiling. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hatcher Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/12/00452/LB: 51 Harbour Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AQ Replacement window to dormer, replacement front door and rainwater goods. Applicant: Ms N Hall Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/12/00525/TAM: Opposite Chantry Social Club Ltd, Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury, CT1 1UF Installation of telecommunications cabinet. Applicant: Harlequin Ltd Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before Monday 30 April 2012.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
 Friday 6 April 2012

HIGHWAYS – in the city of

CANTERBURY

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to amend the Kent County Council (Canterbury) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2011 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Canterbury:

100	Edgar Road	Removal of yellow lines at the top end of the road
110	St Martin's Road	Change single yellow line to parking bays outside 53 to 63
113	Querns Road	New double yellow lines at the junctions with the loop by the play area
116	Sussex Avenue	Double yellow lines at the junction with Dorset Road
117	Russett Road	Double yellow lines at road junctions
120	Barton Road	Single yellow lines on the odd numbered side
145	Vernon Place	Change single yellow line to double yellow lines
150	Watling Street	Prohibition of loading and unloading
190	Ivy Place	Double yellow lines along the southern side
197	Wife of Bath Hill	Double yellow lines outside Nos 3 to 11
203	St Thomas Hill	Single yellow line outside No 23
204	Cherry Drive and Cherry Garden Road	Double yellow lines at the junction of these roads
205	Whitehall Road	Change single yellow lines to double yellow lines
220	Salisbury Road	Double yellow lines outside Nos 3 to 9
240	St Michael's Road	Double yellow lines alongside the grassed island at the junction with St Michael's Place
255	Beaconsfield Road	Double yellow lines opposite Shaftesbury Road
260	Farleigh Road and Hever Place	Double yellow lines at the junction
265	Broad Oak Road	Double yellow lines to form passing places between Stonebridge Road and Farleigh Road
270	Barton Mill Road	Double yellow lines in the entrance to the car park between Nos 40 and 44
275	Brymore Close	New parking bay
999C	Various	Disabled parking bays in Alfred Road, Guildford Road, Knight Avenue, Long Acre Close, Spring Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HERNE BAY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to amend the Kent County Council (Herne Bay) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2011 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Herne Bay:

300	Mill Lane/Woodrow Chase	Double yellow lines at the junction
310	Gorse Lane	Double yellow lines at the junction with Hunters Forstal Road
320	Margate Road/Talmead Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
330	Landon Road/Grange Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
340	Reculver Road/Coventry Gardens	Double yellow lines at the junction
350	Reculver Road/Glenbervie Drive	Double yellow lines at the junction
360	Beltinge Road and Sea View Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
375	Mortimer Street and North Street	Loading ban at the junction
380	Mickleburgh Hill and Tyndale Park	Double yellow lines in Tyndale Park at the junction
385	Mickleburgh Hill	Single yellow lines on the southern side between Canterbury Road and Downs Park
390	Gosfield Road	Residents' parking
420	Stanley Road and Arkley Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
425	Brunswick Square	Residents' parking
435	High Street and The Broadway	Loading ban in The Broadway at the junction with Sea Street and at the junction of Station Road and High Street
440	Sea Street	Double yellow lines on the eastern side between Avenue Road and Western Avenue
450	Sea Street	Restrict the parking bay outside the Post Office to 30 minute waiting
455	Cross Street	Double yellow lines at the entrance to the allotments
465	Greenhill Road	Extend double yellow lines outside Nos 18 to 22 Kingfisher Court
467	Longmead Close	Double yellow lines opposite the block of garages
470	Granville Drive	Single yellow lines on alternate sides of the road between Greenhill Road and Blean View Road
999H	Various	Disabled parking bays Carlton Hill, Fleetwood Avenue, Station Road, Linden Avenue, North Street

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WHITSTABLE) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to amend the Kent County Council (Whitstable) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2011 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Whitstable:

510	Chestfield Road/Radfall Recreation Ground	Double yellow lines outside the recreation ground car park
520	Chestfield Road/The Ridgeway	Double yellow lines at the junction

540	Plantation Road	Extend double yellow lines near the junction with Chestfield Road
550	Chestfield Road opposite Maydowns Road	Double yellow lines in entrance to the closed off access road
570	St John's Road and Plough Lane	Double yellow lines at the junction
592	Ellis Road and Northwood Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
595	Nacholt Close	Double yellow lines at the junction with Ham Shades Lane
600	Tankerton Road	Single yellow line on alternate sides of the road between Tankerton Circus and Tower Hill
605	Tankerton Road and Graystone Road	Remove a parking bay in Tankerton Road and replace it with one in Graystone Road
615	St Anne's Road	Double yellow lines at the junction with Northwood Road
620	Queens Road	Yellow lines between Pier Avenue and Wynn Road
630	Castle Road and Gann Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
633	Kingsdown Park	Double yellow lines at the junctions with Northwood Road
635	Tower Hill	New disabled parking bays outside the tea garden and extend the free parking bays
640	Westgate Terrace	Double yellow lines on the northern side
650	Regent Street Garage Access	Double yellow lines either side of the garage access road next to 140 Regent Street
655	Regent Street North End	Remove yellow lines at the northern end
657	Shaftesbury Road	Extend double yellow lines between Nelson Road and Salts Close
660	West Cliff and Clifton Road	Residents' parking
680	Old Bridge Road	Extend double yellow lines outside No 27
685	Millstrood Road	Extend double yellow lines at the junctions with Belmont Road and Gorrell Road
687	Swanfield Road	Remove single yellow line outside 30 to 36
700	Essex Street	Double yellow lines
710	Forge Lane	Double yellow lines on the south-western side
720	Joy Lane	Extend double yellow lines outside No 78
750	Faversham Road	Double yellow lines between Lucerne Drive and the railway bridge
760	Macdonald Parade	Double yellow lines at the junction with Chanctonbury Chase
999W	Long Rock	Formalise an existing disabled parking bay in Long Rock

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY RURAL PARISHES) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to amend the Kent County Council (Canterbury Rural Parishes) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2011 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in rural parishes in the Canterbury District:

817	Cold Harbour Lane, Bridge	Double yellow lines under the A2 bridge
830	The Street, Wickhambreaux	Additional School Keep Clear marking
840	Mill Road, Sturry	Double yellow lines outside No 12 to 18
845	Popes Lane and Hillbrow Avenue, Sturry	Double yellow lines at the junction
850	Tyler Hill Road, Blean	Disabled parking bay outside the shops
870	Mill Lane, Harbledown	Double yellow lines on the corners of the cul de sac leading to Nos 7 to 15

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, CITY OF CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON FOOTWAY OR VERGE)(AMENDMENT NO 2) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to further amend the Kent County Council (Various Roads, City of Canterbury) (Prohibition of Stopping on Footway or Verge) Order 2010 by prohibiting stopping at any time with one or more wheels on the footway or verge in the following lengths of road:

Item	Area	City/Town	Length(s) of road
090	Palace Street	Canterbury	Both sides of Palace Street and Turnagain Lane
115	Littlebourne Road	Canterbury	Southern side of Littlebourne Road between Windmill Close and Warwick Road
143	Dover Street	Canterbury	Both sides of Dover Street
230	Salisbury Road area	Canterbury	Both sides of Salisbury Road, Bramshaw Road, Verwood Close, Durnford Close, Brockenhurst Close, Damerham Close, Cadnam Close, Ringwood Close
250	Beaconsfield Road	Canterbury	Both sides of Beaconsfield Road, St Michael's Road and St Michael's Place
453	Station Road	Herne Bay	Both sides of Station Road between Spenser Road and the station.
656	High Street area	Whitstable	Both sides of High Street, Harbour Street and Oxford Street

Full details are contained in the draft order which, together with a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the order, a map showing the location and effect and a copy of any orders which will be amended by the proposed order, may be examined at the Canterbury City Council Offices in Military Road, Canterbury or William Street, Herne Bay during normal office hours.

If you wish to object to the proposed order you should write, stating the grounds for your objection, to the Transportation Manager, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW. Alternatively you may email your response to transportation@canterbury.gov.uk Your submission must be received by noon on **Thursday 3 May**.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed order or require further information please email the city council's Transportation Team or telephone **01227 862 544** Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

This Notice is published on behalf of Kent County Council, Highways and Transportation, Enterprise and Environment, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 2XQ.



PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 12/00921/FUL** **Annexe 2 Duck Cottage, Benenden**
- Change of use from annexe to holiday let (LB)
- 12/00864/LBC** **Standings Cross Maidstone Road, Brenchley**
- Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations to form an open archway link through from the front bar to the rear dining area. (LB)
- 12/00841/FUL** **Flat 3 4 Molyneux Park Road, Culverden**
- Install two wooden frame windows to front elevation, install skylight on west side roof slope (CA)
- 12/00724/FUL** **Land Adjacent Three Winds, Goudhurst**
- Demolition of existing redundant farm buildings, workshop and storage; Replacement with a five bedroom, two storey dwelling and associated landscape works (LB)
- 12/00478/HOUSE** **The Old Bakehouse The Moor, Hawkhurst**
- Replacement of dilapidated pergola and summer house with a free standing pergola and gazebo (CA)(LB)
- 12/00793/FUL** **Sports Pavillion King George V Playing Fields, Hawkhurst**
- Extension of Time: Demolition of existing changing room building. Erection of community centre providing accommodation for changing rooms, meeting rooms and a main hall. Erection of separate store buildings, car parking and a reinstated outdoor playground (TW/09/00828 refers) (CA)
- 12/00795/CAC** **Sports Pavillion King George V Playing Fields, Hawkhurst**
- Extension of Time: Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of existing changing room building (TW/09/00839 refers) (CA)
- 12/00892/HOUSE** **The Cottage High Street, Hawkhurst**
- Extension of Time: Proposed orangery to side elevation (TW/09/01229/FUL refers) (CA)
- 12/00248/HOUSE** **Wingrove Cottage Queen Street, Paddock Wood**
- Pitched roof side and rear extensions (LB)
- 12/00732/HOUSE** **Saxon House Pembury Road, Park**
- Rear two storey and rear single storey extensions and alterations to front elevation (CA)
- 12/00838/HOUSE** **4 Cadogan Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Single-storey rear extension and external alterations to form new boundary wall and terrace area (CA)
- 12/00869/TELN5** **Forest Road (Land Opposite No.41) Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Telecommunications Notification: 12.5m high mock telegraph style street furniture column in brown, with 1 no. equipment cabinet and 1 no. metre pillar painted green and development ancillary thereto (MAST)
- 12/00870/FUL** **Little Fribbery Downgate Farm, Sandhurst**
- Purpose built stable building and partial change of use of residential amenity garden to equestrian use (PROW)
- 12/00874/HOUSE** **Tambour House Friezley Lane, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**
- Single storey extension, internal alterations and extension to existing single storey roof to accommodate bedroom with ensuite (LB)
- 12/00919/HOUSE** **Bettenham Manor Bettenham Lane, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**
- All weather tennis/ball court, erection of a wire mess fence and landscaping (LB)
- 12/00848/FUL** **St Thomas's Church Pennington Road, Southborough Town Council**
- Additions to church to form parish room & meeting room (amendments to planning consents TW/89/1692 & TW/94/1251) TW/97/01184/FUL - Removal of Conditions 5 & 6 restricting the use of the parish room (LB)(CA)
- (DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.
- You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgejeweels.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgejeweels.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.
- You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.
- Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 07 April 2012



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0236/SH# - Stockbridge House Ashford Road Stockbridge Snave Ashford - Listed building consent for underpinning works to the left flank of the dwelling together with internal and external alterations.

Y12/0241/SH - Land adjoining Somerfield Court Farm Barrow Hill Sellindge Kent - Erection of a single wind turbine measuring 44.28m to hub height and a maximum of 61m to blade tip height, together with construction of an access track, a crane pad and an equipment housing cabinet.

Y12/0242/SH - Windlass Cottage Cullings Hill Elham Canterbury Kent - Crown reduction of a Beech tree situated within a conservation area.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/SW/0089/2012 & KCC/SW/0098/2012 - Proposed developments at Countrystyle Recycling Ltd, Ridham Dock, Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8SR.

Countrystyle Recycling Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the following:

- To continue development without complying with conditions 3 (site layout), 21 (external wood shredding/storage) and 24 (operations under cover of MRF building) of planning permission SW/10/1436. (KCC/SW/0089/2012)
- Retrospective construction and use of a 40m long, 6m wide concrete pad and ancillary gates and fence, for use by vehicles collecting recycled powdered gypsum from the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). (KCC/SW/0098/2012)

You may view these applications at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

KCC/TM/0094/2012 - Proposed development at Any Waste Solutions Ltd, The Brook, Mid Kent Business Park, Sortmill Road, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5UA.

Any Waste Solutions Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for an extension of time to implement planning permission reference TM/08/2654 - (change of use of land to use as a skip hire waste transfer and recycling station and construction of weighbridge, diesel and oil storage tanks, portacabin offices and industrial building).

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on the Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 8 April 2012



IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

Call 01303 817056 www.kentnews.co.uk

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/12/0461/S - THE BULL INN, LINTON HILL, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4AW - Retrospective application for the erection of an oak framed shelter to the rear and re-cladding of existing lean-to store. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0462/S - THE BULL INN, LINTON HILL, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4AW - Retrospective listed building consent for the erection of an oak framed shelter to the rear and re-cladding of existing lean-to store. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0463/S - 2 - 3 BEDFORD PLACE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8JB - Conversion of building from offices to 7No. flats and erection of 2No. dwellinghouses and associated works to exterior of building and access/parking arrangements. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0464/S - 2 - 3, BEDFORD PLACE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8JB - An application for listed building consent for the demolition of a single storey rear extension and various internal and external works including alterations to the internal layout and arrangement of external openings; the introduction of an exterior staircase and chimney stack; and the removal of existing gate and pillars. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0469/N - ACORN COTTAGE, PILGRIMS WAY, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RB - Retrospective application for the erection of a wood and bin store. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/0472/N - LYNDEAN HOUSE, 30, ALBION PLACE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5DZ - Change of use of part of lower ground floor and single parking bay from office space (B1 Use) to shop (A1 Use) and installation of new shop front. **Reason: 9**

MA/12/0479/S - THE OLD FORGE GARAGE (FORMER LEACH MOTORS), CHART CORNER, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3SB - Introduction of additional openings to east and west elevations. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **22nd April 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 8th April 2012



Public Notice

8 April 2012



Notice under Section 122(2A) Local Government Act 1972

Proposed appropriation of land at Kingsmead from open space to planning purposes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Canterbury City Council intends to appropriate open space land at Kingsmead Canterbury, for planning purposes under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The area of land to be appropriated is described in the Schedule to this notice.

Members of the public who wish comment or object to the proposal should send their comments or objections to Mark Ellender, Legal and Democratic Services, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury Kent CT1 1YW in writing by 22 April 2012.

A plan identifying the land which the council is considering appropriating to planning purposes can be viewed at the council offices during normal opening hours.

SCHEDULE

1.912 hectares of land comprising of land adjoining Kingsmead Road, Broad Oak Road, Stonebridge Road and Ambleside Place.

Colin Carmichael, Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CW91 AT WHITSTABLE AND CHESTFIELD)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER (NO. 2) 2012

The above Order was made on 28th March 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by downgrading to Public Footpath status that length of Restricted Byway CW38 (known as Grasmere Road) commencing at its junction with Blackberry Way in Whitstable and running in an east-south-easterly through easterly direction for 485 metres to its junction at Shepherd's Walk in Chestfield. All distances are approximate, all directions are general. Note that this Order supersedes The Kent County Council (Public Footpath CW91 at Whitstable and Chestfield) Definitive Map Modification Order 2012.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW or at Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council (address as below) no later than Monday 21st May 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FOOTPATH ER297 AT RINGWOULD WITH KINGSDOWN)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 20th March 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a Footpath with a width of 1.5 metres which commences at its connection with public footpath ER7 at NGR TR 3759 4811 (point A) and runs in an easterly direction for 118 metres to its connection with public footpath ER8 at

NGR TR 3771 4811 (point B). Between the points A-B on the Order plan.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PG or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 21st May 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE RESTRICTED BYWAY ZSX60, SHEERNESS

RESTRICTED BYWAY ZSX60, SHEERNESS
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Restricted Byway ZSX60 (on the seawall Esplanade) between the Sailing Club and 124 Marine Parade, Cheyney Rock from the 30th March 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 11 May 2012.

The route is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route for pedestrians is via a ramp beside the Sailing Club, east along Marine Parade and up the steps back onto the Esplanade, other users can continue along Marine Parade to Barton's Point. These routes will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 8th April 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or its setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.
7. This application will affect trees covered by a tree preservation order.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 05 MARCH 2012

SW/11/1486:
Single storey ground floor extension and single storey first floor over garage extension - 7 Ospringe Place, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1, 2 & 7.

SW/12/0040:
Remove existing timber sash windows and replace with PVCU sash windows - 29 Briton Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1.

SW/12/0093 &
SW/12/0137:
Provision of oak timber doors to enclose present parking area and 3 no. conservation style rooflights - The Cart Lodge, Chaffes Lane, UPCHURCH; REASONS 2 & 4.

SW/12/0096:
Variation of condition 1 of SW/09/1142 to allow permanent permission for one caravan for a romany family - The Meads Farm, Elverland Lane, OSPRINGE; REASON 3.

SW/12/0113:
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission NK/8/60/99 to extend the occupancy period of 10 months between 1st March - 3rd January - Sunnymead Caravan Park, Fourth Avenue, EASTCHURCH; REASONS 3 & 4.

SW/12/0114:
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission SW/80/296 to extend the occupancy period to 10 months between 1st March - 3rd January - Pleasant View, First Avenue, EASTCHURCH; REASON 3.

SW/12/0115:
Variation of condition (i) of the permission granted under NK/8/49/57 to allow chalets & caravans to be used between 1st March & 3rd January - Eastchurch Holiday Camp, Fourth Avenue, EASTCHURCH; REASON 3.

SW/12/0117 &
SW/12/0121:
Application for a new planning permission & listed building consent to replace extant permission/consent to extend time limit for implementation. Proposed development: Demolition of existing rear extensions, alterations & new extension to listed building (former Garden House Hotel in Boughton Under Blean) to form 10 individually designed dwellings. Works to include improved access, new parking arrangement and integrated landscaping - Former Garden Hotel, 169 The Street, BOUGHTON; REASON 2.

SW/12/0129:
Erection of gates and railings to supplement existing boundary treatments on the front boundary - Byfield Court, Sheppey Way, BOBBING; REASON 2.

SW/12/0127 &
SW/12/0128:
Extension with internal alterations to form additional classroom and relocation of existing staffroom, to include formation of single opening to internal wall in the school house and enlargement of opening to flank wall of existing staffroom - Lynsted & Norton Primary School, Lynsted Lane, LYNSTED; REASON 1.

SW/12/0134:
Two storey extension to front and side - Mill House, Deanshill, BREDGAR; REASON 2.

SW/12/0138:
Repair/removal of defective concrete on main teaching block and science block and recladding and reglazing of the main teaching block and reglazing of the science block - Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Abbey Place, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 3.

SW/12/0141:
Agricultural barn - Alpaca Farm, Yaugher Lane, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 3.

SW/12/0147:
Provision of a 1000m straight gallop with an additional integrated 600m circular gallop to replace a 600m gallop granted under planning consent SW/11/0590 (not constructed) - Eyehorn Farm, Munsgore Lane, BORDEN; REASON 3.

SW/12/0160:
Erection of a double garage with driveway alterations - Keites Styles, Mill Lane, HARTLIP; REASON 1.

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Application for a variation of a premises licence - Licensing Act 2003

Cousins Snooker and Pool Club

Suite D, 19 Lower Bridge Street, Canterbury

Notice is hereby given that Mr Ali Gun, 236 Joyce Avenue, Edmonton, London, N18 2TS

has applied to Canterbury City Council for a variation of the above premises licence to sell alcohol, and provide late night refreshment from Monday to Saturday 11:00 to 01:00 and Sunday 11:00 to 00:00; open to the public from Monday to Saturday 11:00 to 01:30 and Sunday 11:00 to 00:30 for the above premises. The premises to close 30 minutes after the end of permitted hours.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing> or at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 1YW by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by

Saturday 5th May 2012

AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS LTD
PO BOX 499, ASHFORD, TN23 9QB

Goods Vehicle
Operator's Licence

999 Logistics Limited of Shelmerdene Commercial Yard, Addington Green, Addington, Kent. ME19 5BE is applying for a licence to use Shelmerdene Commercial Yard, Addington Green, Addington, Kent. ME19 5BE as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Application for a Premises Licence
Licensing Act 2003The Winchester Club & Essence Bar
1 The Broadway, Sheerness, ME12 1AB

Notice is hereby given that Deadline Deliveries Co. Ltd, 18 Heralds Way, South Woodham Ferries, Essex

has applied to Swale Borough Council for the grant of a premises licence to sell alcohol, show films, provide live music, and late night refreshment between the hours of 11:00 and 00:01 hours Sunday to Wednesday and 11:00 and 02:00 Thursday to Saturday for the above premises

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.swale.gov.uk/licensing> or at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 3HT by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by:

Thursday 3rd May 2012

AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS LTD
PO BOX 499, ASHFORD, TN23 9QB

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To place your notice here,
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01303 817044

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Holidays

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Holidays offered by **GN Holidays**, Higher Denham, Uxbridge UB9 5EL • Open: 9am to 5.30pm weekdays 9.30am to 12.30pm Saturdays • Email: info@gnholidays.com • www.gnholidays.com

Mamma Mia Party

For over 40s only
Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast
Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar
Quote MP5-KOS
£99pp

25 to 28 May, 2012

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips. We have organised a fabulous private party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band playing live.

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy a choice of bar and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main



facilities and car parks. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

INCLUDED:

- Mamma Mia the Movie
- Top Abba Tribute band
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night
- Full Entertainment & Activities programme
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities

Mamma Mia. What a Party!

Well organised good entertainment, good food - Mrs McCrindle of Redditch
Good value no kids or teenagers - Mr Long of Surrey
Adults only good fun and atmosphere - Mrs Davies of Nottinghamshire

Friendly atmosphere, good company - no children - Mr Gardner of Kent
The whole weekend was brilliant. Thank you - Mrs Ferguson of Essex
Entertainment brilliant - well done - Mrs Milled of Suffolk

Value for money, good service throughout our stay, staff all very helpful and friendly - Mr Soutter of Kent
What GN Holidays! Customer's said about their Mamma Mia Party at Pontin's Pakefield in May

Riviera of Flowers, Monaco & Portofino

Escorted Holiday by Rail from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford

9 days, semi-all-inclusive

Quote DP-KOS

From £899pp

16 May, 17 & 24 Sept, 2012

This super holiday, taking in the French and Italian Rivières, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet/Ashford on request) before boarding the Eurostar to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice and Olbia Marina. On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night and visits to Monaco & Eze, Portofino & Dolceacqua.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras - 1 glass of
- Champagne or alternative non-alcoholic drink
- Return Eurostar & TGV rail travel London St Pancras to Nice (from Ebbsfleet/Ashford on request)



- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille outbound
- 7 nights sharing a twin/double room at the Piccolo Hotel, Olbia Marina with 7 buffet breakfasts &

- dinners and beer drinks 6pm to 11pm every night - local brands of beer, wine & spirits
- Exclusions:
- All transfers abroad



Rhine & Moselle River Cruise

Escorted Rail-Cruise from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford
6 days, full board
Quote RM5-KOS
From £599pp

22 to 27 May, 2012

Come with us on a relaxing river cruise on the majestic Rhine and beautiful Moselle rivers, in southern Germany. Relax on board the Princess Christina as she glides idly

past romantic hilltop castles, picturesque vineyards and historic riverside towns. To join the ship, we travel by train from London St Pancras from Ebbsfleet & Ashford (on request) to Cologne, via Brussels - with just one train change. In Cologne we transfer by coach to the Princess Christina for a 5-night full board river cruise.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Cologne (from Ebbsfleet & Ashford on request)
- 5 nights full-board on the Princess Christina
- Welcome cocktail on arrival
- Cup of coffee/tea each morning and afternoon
- Captains' dinner on night before departure
- Live music one evening
- All transfers abroad



Suffolk Coast Midweek Breaks

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village
Self-Drive - 4 nights, half board
Quote PM-KOS
£89pp

16 & 30 April; 7 & 14 May; 11 & 18 June, 2012

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy entertainment every night and

day with Pontin's famous Bluecats and visiting cabaret acts - PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

INCLUDED:

- 4 nights en-suite chalet accommodation with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities
- 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts
- Entertainment every day



Hayling Island Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Mill Rythe Resort

Hayling Island

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

From £159pp

Quote XM11-KOS

23 to 26 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Mill

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Will the feathers fly during evening of burlesque at The Marlowe?

SEE PAGE 55



STILL COOL FOR CATS

Even after all these years, Squeeze can make a difference

SEE PAGE 56

Kent Weekend

What shall we do for Easter?

So many great events over the holiday

SEE INSIDE



PLUS: City's North African eatery is very Moorish - **food and drink p52**
Find yourself a master builder to extend your home in style - **property p59**
Vauxhall introduction to the next step in electric cars - **driving p63**

OUT IN KENT

Now's the time to enjoy the great outdoors

IT'S the season when outdoor activities begin to look enticing after the darker days of the winter and our county offers the perfect match between the delights of the English countryside and the beauty of the coast.

And now with summer just around the corner, it is the ideal time to go out and about and enjoy what there is to see and do.

With Kent such a popular tourist destination, the springtime is great

for families to explore the open fields, the downs, the sandy beaches, the atmospheric marshland and the wondrous cliffs, as they won't be too packed. In fact, go just a little way off the beaten track and you can make them yours for the day.

A wander through sunlit bluebell-carpeted woods is one of the season's most evocative experiences, and these beautiful seasonal flowers are currently in full bloom.

Walking is the perfect weekend activity for spring as it's not too hot

for a brisk stroll but also not too cold to sit outside in a beer garden or take an early-in-the-year al fresco meal.

Picnics on the beach or among the trees and shrubs of a woodland or country home can be especially wonderful in spring.

There is nothing like enjoying the food and drink you have brought alongside family and friends with the sure knowledge that the summer and its

long and lazy warm days are all in front of you.

Many of the county's stately homes and attractions such as gardens, vineyards and parks are also now open for the first part of their season, so all is fresh and new.

With this added bonus you can be looking forward to the beautiful months that make up summer in the incredible Garden of England.



Pictures: PAUL JERRATT

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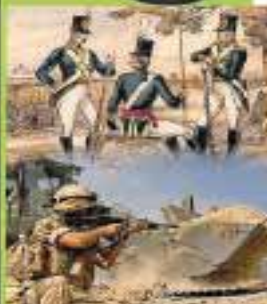
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Mar-19	Maj Gen John Drewienkiewicz	The Royal Engineers in Bosnia
Apr-19	Maj Gen Mungo Melvin (Retd)	Gordon & Tolstoy at Sevastopol
May-17	Cpl James Bedford MC	Winning the Military Cross
Jun-23	Peter Kendall English Heritage	The Great Lines of Chatham
Jul-19	Peter Barton Military Historian	TBC
Aug-16	Peter Collins Art Historian, Cuneo Expert	Life and Work of Terence Cuneo
Sep-18	Brig Bill Woodburn (Retd)	The Bala Hissar of Kabul
Oct-18	Col Chris Davies	Falklands 30th Anniversary
Nov-15	Col John Howers (Retd)	Early Military Flying
Dec-13	Mark Connolly Professor, University of Kent	The 1914 Christmas Truce



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THE INTERVIEW

Leslie Ash

Behaving badly in the past as this lady storms back

Joe Bill meets the battling actress who has overcome a difficult time

In the mid-90s, BBC One comedy *Men Behaving Badly* was getting up to 15 million viewers per episode – and we can be sure that many of them were tuning in to see one person... Debs, the blonde bombshell who lived upstairs from Tony and Gary's flat.

Played by Leslie Ash, she was the object of desire for Tony (played by Neil Morrissey) and for more than 40 episodes we willed him to sort himself out and finally get it together with his glamorous neighbour, but even now, more than 15 years on, he still probably wouldn't have managed it.

Ash went on to be one of the golden girls of British sitcom and was very much in the public eye, perhaps most notably in 2004, when she was hospitalised after cracking two ribs during a reported love-making session with her ex-footballer husband Lee Chapman.

The actress was discharged after a couple of days but readmitted after losing feeling in her legs. It was later announced she had contracted a strain of hospital superbug MRSA, which affected her mobility.

Since then the TV star has battled to become as mobile as she used to be, with every day another step on her road to recovery.

Now, in her first national theatre tour for 17 years, Ash has been back in front of an audience in *All The Single Ladies*.

The show features former *EastEnders* star Brooke Kinsella MBE, known for her work against knife crime after her younger brother Ben was murdered in 2008, as well as Irish comedienne Tara Flynn.

Ash said: "The story is about three women at different stages of their lives, but they are all single. Brooke plays a squaddie's widow, and then there's Tara Flynn, who plays a single girl looking for the love of her life."

"And I play a woman who has had seven husbands. It is monologues of their lives and how they intertwine."

"It's very funny, but it has emotional moments as well. It's very much a modern-day thing with computer-dating and all that."

"Since 2004, I have not been doing much work at all, really, but I knew it was going to be like that. I have been going through the recovery [from MRSA]. But I was asked to do this because it was basically a sitting-down job doing monologues and not too much movement."

"I just thought it would be really nice and it has taken me back years to when I first got started. We are on a tour and I have not toured for years. I just wanted to keep my hand in acting as long as I can – I have missed it so much."

And touring with stage shows is definitely something the 47-year-old would like to continue in the future.

She said: "I would like to think I might be offered another tour next year, maybe. This one has made me feel like I can do it again. At first I didn't think I would be able to – I thought touring would be completely out of the question, but I go to the gym. I'm quite fit and it has been fine."

"I have proved I can do it on stage – that was another fear of mine because I was frightened that with the different sets and when the lights go out I might be falling all over the place, but it has been fine."

Ash's last appearance on television was a seven-month stint on hospital soap *Holby City* in 2009, but it is her previous works, including one seminal film, that follow her to this day.

She said: "I did *Quadrophenia* when I was 18. It didn't really take off when it first came out and it wasn't until it was re-released that it did well. But now, obviously, it is a real cult film. At the time, I think we all got paid about £300 to do it."

"It is amazing – during this tour I have been having everyone, even young kids, coming to get their posters signed outside the theatre."

"It is nice to see *Quadrophenia* is still being enjoyed by a younger audience as well – it is fantastic to see. It is a brilliant film."

But Ash did reveal that she was no mod herself:

"It was a bit early for me, but I loved that era – the fashion was so fantastic, real smart. At the time we were filming, I felt a bit of an idiot, but now it's all back in fashion."

What many people don't know is that Ash started out on TV at a much younger age, and in a highly memorable role – as the Fairy Liquid girl.

"When I was four, it was a one-off commercial and it was in black and white, I had to do a few different lines including the 'Why are your hands so soft, Mummy?' one."

"From then I have always wanted to be an actress. I went to drama school and there was only one job I ever wanted to do

and that was this."

It wasn't until 1992 that Leslie Ash truly became a household name in the UK as she took up her role as Debs in *Men Behaving Badly*.

She made up the famous foursome alongside Martin Clunes, Caroline Quentin and eventually Morrissey, who replaced Harry Enfield from the second series onwards.

"It was amazing. Situation-comedy at that time was slightly boring. You had the really good ones like *Only Fools And Horses* and *One Foot In The Grave*, but there were far more middle-of-the-road sitcoms around, so *Men Behaving Badly* shook it all up."

"At first everyone was saying it was really sexist, but it wasn't... in fact it was the girls taking the mickey out of the boys all the time."

"It went down so well and was such a nice thing to be part of. The job was easy because everything was done in the writing, so all we had to do was rehearse. The four of us got on really well and we knew each others' strengths."

The show grew in popularity, with the Christmas special in 1996 reaching a reported 20 million viewers.

But it was stopped at what was arguably its zenith. "It was hard when we were told that they were not going to do any more," said Ash. "It was really sad, but it's better to go out with a bang."

"I bump into them every now and again. I bumped into Martin [Clunes] on *The One Show* not long ago. It's like an old class – all your school friends go off in different directions and you don't see each other much."

"That is the way this business goes. You can be really close to people, but as soon as that job finishes you may not ever see them again."

And should the opportunity ever arise for Ash to reprise her role as the babe upstairs, there is a firm and definite answer.

"I would love to do it, but we would see what happens. It would be rude not to, wouldn't it?"

■ For All The Single Ladies tour dates, see www.allthesingleladies.eu/the-tour.php

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At first people said it was really sexist, but it wasn't... in fact it was the girls taking the mickey out of the boys all the time

ASH, ON *MEN BEHAVING BADLY*



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FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Café's taste of North Africa proves extremely Moorish

BEING pigeonholed as a themed restaurant can make a place sound predictable and bland. It evokes thoughts of ultra-child-friendly fun houses, sickly-sweet stereotypes of faux-Mexican waiters wearing ponchos and, let's not forget, average (at best) food.

Café Mauresque in Canterbury cannot be tarred with the same brush. The Moroccan-style eatery has the diner's experience at the very heart of its product. This small corner of Butchery Lane has been turned into a North African café with elegance and a touch of class.

It is not in your face or overbearing but has the desired effect of taking visitors to another world, if only for a couple of hours.

We were seated downstairs in the cosy basement, which was decorated with Moroccan and Turkish ornaments and tables.

The lack of natural light, the low ceilings and the smells from the kitchen really draw in that feeling of being abroad. Our waitress pointed out the Moroccan Casablanca beer, which we were only too keen to taste, although it was a tad pricey at £4.25 for just more than half a pint.

The menu was split into a list of tapas and more traditional single courses, with my guest and I ordering the Moorish platter to share. It

RESTAURANT REVIEW



arrived brimming with hot lamb meatballs, hummus and bread, olives and feta, warm chorizo with sherry and tomato, Serrano ham, Manchego cheese, and almonds. It was a feast on its own at £14.95.

The varying tastes were excellent, with the spice from the chorizo and fresh olives complimenting each other especially well.

The fact that the dish encourages you to use your hands rather than cutlery also helps convey a more Continental culture.

As more people started to arrive, the intensity increased, with the tables situated very close together and waiting staff rushing about, again

adding to the vision behind the restaurant.

For the main course there were options of traditional tagines and cous-cous dishes, but I opted for the seafood paella with saffron (£14.95), based on the fact that one I had seen earlier looked amazing.

The looks were not deceiving. Chargrilled king prawns and whole calamari littered the rice, while a skewered selection of grilled chorizo and prawns lay on top.

Each of the ingredients was cooked well. No chewyness in the calamari and the browned shells of the king prawns fell away to reveal perfectly-cooked meat. The dish was a joy.

My guest chose the chargrilled flat mushroom and sweet-pepper gratin, with aubergine fritters on a butterbean-and-spinach stew at £10.95. A shrewd nod of the head proved equal excellence.

The final piece of our culinary mix was a crème caramel-and-honey dessert at £4.25. The taste was good, but the texture left a lot to be desired. I won't have it again the next time I go, and trust me there will be a next time. The meal came to £57.85, including drinks.

Joe Bill

■ Café Mauresque, Butchery Lane, Canterbury CT1 2JR. Telephone 01227 464300; website www.cafemauresque.com



Herbert Hall tradition takes place at House

THERE was a Champagne moment for a Kent vineyard as it bagged a place on the House of Commons wine list for the summer.

Herbert Hall at Marden will have its English Traditional Method sparkling wine stocked in the House during May and June.

In the run-up to the Diamond Jubilee and London Olympics, the Commons will be stocking the finest English wines from around the country and Herbert Hall will take the position of the only English sparkling wine available.

After a visit to the vineyard, and knowing Herbert Hall's Brut and Brut Rosé, Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone and The Weald, wrote to the House of Commons catering staff suggesting they stock the wine.

The wine did all the talking at the meeting a few weeks later and a deal was done to sell the wine on the Parliamentary estate.

House of Commons operations manager Robert Gibbs, Mrs Grant and Herbert Hall-owner Nick Hall are pictured outside the House.

Visit www.herberthall.com for information.

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FOOD & DRINK

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The Red Lion Hernhill

Why here...

Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, there is a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales.

On the menu...

Why not take the family to the popular Sunday lunch, where you can have one course for £10.50, two courses for £13.50 or three courses for £15.50. Choose from meats including pork, lamb and beef.

How to book...

The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
web: www.theredlion.org

Family isn't a choice... but a good meal is

EASTER is a time when families get together to celebrate the coming of spring, the end of winter and the occasional chocolate egg. And dining together with your loved ones is the best way to welcome in the warmer weather.

With the array of foods and eateries available in Kent, it doesn't matter if meeting with your clan is a regular occurrence or just a one-off thing, there is something here for every occasion.

It may be that you are looking to treat your mum and dad, or a favourite aunt and uncle, or even the whole extended family, but one thing is for sure: there are stunning selections and delicious dishes to be found in restaurants across Kent's landscape and along our waterfronts.

This week we feature restaurants that have a special welcome for family groups, including, of course, children. Some have menus specially prepared for younger members of the party, while all offer the warm welcome that means so much to family groups.

Now is the best time of year for Kent-only dishes like Romney Marsh lamb, while Whitstable's fish selection is not too bad, either!

The county's restaurants pride themselves on offering the very best of local produce, so what could be better than sitting with your nearest and dearest sampling the food and drink produced in the countryside around you?

The summer is particularly fine for alfresco dining – something children love. Here is a selection of establishments that go out of their way to provide for family groups.



The Acorn Inn Birchington

Why here...

The Acorn Inn is a friendly, family-run pub in the heart of the seaside village of Birchington-on-Sea. Hosts Peter and Cath offer you a warm welcome to a pub that has existed since 1748.

On the menu...

There is a good selection, from fish to meat, on the à la carte menu, where prices range from £4.95 to £18.95. Every Thursday is steak night. Sunday roasts are available from midday-4.30pm.

How to book...

The Acorn Inn,
6 Park Lane,
Birchington CT7 0AW
phone: 01843 841196



World's Wonder Warehorne

Why here...

World's Wonder sits in the countryside, offering a true rural eating experience. Live music on Saturday, April 14: the relaxing jazz of Pete Lowe, with a sumptuous two-course meal for £15pp.

On the menu...

The carvery and pudding evening on Saturday, April 21, from 6.30pm onwards £17.95pp. Sample up to 20 home-made puddings. On Saturday, April 8, try the Easter Sunday lunch.

How to book...

Kenardington Road,
Warehorne TN26 2LU
phone: 01233 732431
web: www.worldswonder.co.uk



London Beach Tenterden

Why here...

The London Beach offers one of the best à la carte menus in the county. The dishes change on a regular basis to coincide with the seasons and, wherever possible, the team incorporates Kent produce.

The sophisticated restaurant has a relaxed ambience with beautiful panoramic views across the Weald of Kent. It is an ideal venue for family gatherings large or small.

On the menu...

Start your meal with Rye Bay scallops, creamed leeks and truffle dressing followed by roasted breast of pheasant, confit leg, cauliflower purée and terrine of Dauphinoise. Top off your meal with Champagne panacotta with vanilla poached rhubarb. You will find something to suit all the family.

How to book...

London Beach Country Hotel,
Ashford Road, Tenterden
TN30 6HX
phone: 01580 766279; email:
enquiries@londonbeach.com



Oriental Buffet Tonbridge

Why here...

The Oriental Buffet has been under new management since January and offers the chance to feast on all of your favourite cuisines.

"Quality without compromise" is the key here, as new owner Kishore Fapkota has demonstrated since taking over. Customers will notice many positive changes, from the welcoming ambience and smartly-dressed staff to the fresh flowers on each table.

On the menu...

With more than 50 items from which to choose and five styles of cuisine, there really is something for everyone. No more arguing about whether to go for an Indian or Chinese, or whether you prefer Thai or Nepalese – here you can try it all, quite literally, from very mild to hot and spicy! Perfect for Easter meals with the family.

How to book...

96 High Street, Tonbridge,
TN9 1AP
phone: 01732 361666.
Book now to avoid disappointment!



Gurkha Palace Folkestone

Why here...

Try an authentic taste of Nepal with regional cuisines. The food of this beautiful country is as diverse as the landscape, so it's no surprise to learn that Gurkha Palace's menu is vast.

On the menu...

Excellent food has seen it nominated as best Nepalese restaurant in the country by The Good Food Guide. Also highly commended by Channel Chamber and in the best customer-service awards.

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97 Enbrook Valley (Golden Valley Shopping Centre),
Folkestone CT20 3NE
phone: 01303 257700

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Women Seeking

Guxs Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.**Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508****(T&C's below)****ANNE** 60, Christian, WLTM similar person. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496****AFFABLE** serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. **London Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411****JACQUELINE** 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, Auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, seeks honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387539****ALICE** 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107****MANDY** 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555****Hi** I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103****DEBBIE** slim outgoing approachable attractive lassie, 33yrs, GSOH, sporty, looking for non serious fun male for friendship, maybe more. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387101****CHARLIE** young 37yr old blonde attractive nurse, OHAC, no ties, new to the area and dating scene, looking to find love with genuine available male, 25-42 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051****LAURA** single female 22yrs, blonde, blue eyes, very attractive with curvy figure, WLTM older male for fun times only Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387049****TASHA** single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387047****60YR** old attractive female, seeks non drinker for dog walking, theatre, galleries, photography and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386231****CARIBBEAN** young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117****SUSIE** tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163****DEBBIE** 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, slim, 47, likes gym, cinema, bowling, meals out, concerts, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390362****SLIM** tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071****NICOLE** lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388145****JACQUELINE** blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137****TRIXI** looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only, I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388135****YVONNE** professional 35yr old female looking for someone to relax with, affectionate attractive and looking for same. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388111****SANDY** slim attractive green eyed female, loves romantic walks, animals, WLTM loving caring guy for tactile relationship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388109****CHRISTIAN** lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565****JUNE** good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tic. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301****46YR** old young, curvy single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and love, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143****BERYL** 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503****ANNE** romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225****LADY** 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743****LADY** 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331****SENSUAL** 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309****BECKY** 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305****JENNY** very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303****PETITE** French lady, likes to be spoiled/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579****GWEN** lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTM male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443****CARMEL** blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001****TRACY** 39, fun blue eyed busty blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTM professional male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045****JO** 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. **ACA. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043****48YR** old female, seeks tall, caring male in the West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388974****WENDY** cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614****DEBBIE** 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337****SUE** young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275****DEBS** 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273****51YR** old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840****KEELY** blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377****FEMALE** 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787****MARION** 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159****VAL** compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155****ATTRACTIVE** lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987****TARA** 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731****NIAMH** slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real woman. Or at least thinks he can. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051****EMMA** pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373****LYNDA** very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653****KERRY** blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649****Hi** I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643****TINA** new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625****SARA** 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTM tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623****LISA** blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020****BECKY** single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057****CHRIS** outgoing secretary, enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055****KIRSTY** 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051****TIA** 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081****WENDY** enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079****SARAH** 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626****GEM** 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTM genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369****DIANE** single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351****RUTH** slim funny 18yr old brunette who loves cuddles seeks genuine guy for friendship leading to more. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385349****MEL** tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971****MAYE** young 73yr old widow, attractive, seeks tall, solvent gent, 65-75 to share good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387799****LOOKING** to start the New Year of with a bang? Faye open minded 20yr old female just looking for fun times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383045****HANNAH** 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977****SAM** 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTM older male to go to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975****KERRY** 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTM genuine male for fifty dates, text fun and more. Pls Call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901****JO** discreet 28yr old Auburn haired beauty looking for a bit of fun back in her life, seeks male to make me smile again. Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383899****CAROL** alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119****ANN** slim blonde female, lovely blue blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, WLTM caring 40's male for adult fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382085**

ANGELA

Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227****KATIE** pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205****CLARE** petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. Must be respectful and discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203****LISA** attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201****KATHY** 49, seeking male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389362****48YR** old female, slim, looking for tall Knight in shining armour for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389348****ANGELA** divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350**

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.**Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)****SINGLE** dad, 6ft 11ins, forgotten what life is, help! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390540****MALE** 5ft 9ins, brown hair, muscular, seeking well spoken Sussex pretty female, under 46, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390490****STEVE** 48, good looking, single, likes theatre, nights out, history, seeks lady, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390476****TONY** 5ft 9ins, dark hair, slim, meals out, seeking female of female, 25-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390468****DAVID** 58, professional, slim looking for lady for discreet relationship. East Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387157****57YR** old gent, kind, romantic, likes walks, travel, looking for woman, preferably Pompey fan. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388447****MALE** 56, broadminded, passionate, easygoing, seeks lady, 48-65 wanting, passion and exciting friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388417****GENUINE** sincere male, 50, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, fun loving, good company, seeks female to rediscover a full life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385631****LOVELY** tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159****KAREN** 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379902****TALL** long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTM gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559****SUE** long blonde haired slim but curvy petite female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853****RON** 63, 5ft 6ins, loves gardening, tv, history, animals, romantic, caring, OHAC, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390360****JOE** 48 5ft 11ins, average build, easygoing, looking for bored female for chats and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387925****MALE** own business, likes good food, travel, cinema, theatre, seeking good company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390442****BRIAN** 61, widower, likes good life, own home, active, likes meals out, music, country life, seeks female, 40-60 to share. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388243****DAVID** likes tennis, gym, cinema, holidays, seeking female, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390406****RECLUSIVE** unconventional artist, 57, wishing for sensual, sensitive, mature lady to share quiet but exciting mutual natural pleasures in rural seaside home. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387285****EASYGOING** 60's gent, seeks young at heart 50 something lady to share the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384081**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: GAY601 to 65125 for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. (T&C's below)**Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk****JOHN** 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, brown hair, slim, seeks black male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387274****ROBERT** bi-curious 49, medium build, seeks similar for discreet friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373547****SMALL** N/S male, early 50's, seeks larger older male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388386****RICHARD** 38, ex model, passive, likes horses, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379097****Contact members by phone:****0906 515 7112 0906 515 7114 0844 800 1188****Contact members by TEXT!**

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

Heels, corsets and stockings Burlesque

The Marlowe, Canterbury
Friday, April 27, 7.30pm
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

DIRECT from London's West End, the UK's first and only touring burlesque show is coming to town. Showcasing award-winning talent from across the country, An Evening Of Burlesque offers an opportunity to see some of the world's top burlesque stars up close and personal. Theatregoers are promised corsets, killer heels and stockings aplenty. Burlesque as a theatrical skill has made a huge comeback in the last 10 years following the release of the hit film Moulin Rouge starring Nicole Kidman. Bringing variety back to the theatre, the show's



combination of musical and theatrical parody, magic, comedy and dance with the art of striptease saw its extensive 2011 UK tour enjoy rave reviews. Producer Michael

Taylor said: "Its content, sparkling glamour, physical humour and a dynamic score need no translation." Tickets are priced at £21. Suitable for adults only.



Out on the Pan... tiles Spring jazz sessions

The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells
Thursdays, April 19-May 31
01892 614411; www.woodsrestaurant.co.uk

IN a new initiative for the award-winning Woods Restaurant, the elegant eatery on The Pantiles will transform into a jazz-bistro bar with the launch of its fabulous five nights of jazz this spring. Local legends will perform, including John Harriman performing in his Latin Jazz Trio as well as the Bob Bernard Duo and the multi-talented Iain Rae Trio. The five evenings will run from 7pm and guests can look forward to a tasty three-course bistro supper, a glass of wine and two great jazz sets for a ticket price of £20. Book in advance.

Animal greetings and a fun Easter-egg hunt Fred and Wilma await

Beech Court Gardens, Challock
Sunday and Monday, April 8-9
01233 740735
www.beechcourgardens.co.uk

BEECH Court Gardens in Challock will be holding its annual children's Easter-egg hunt this weekend. Baskets with painted eggs are hidden around the garden and there is a small prize for children who find them all. In addition to the delightful gardens, visitors can see rare-breed chickens, which wander the gardens, and youngsters can meet two new additions, Fred and Wilma the goats. Surrounding a 15th-century farmhouse and tea rooms, the springtime 10-acre garden heralds a show of daffodils, rhododendrons and azaleas, which gives way to climbing roses in June. The summer brings herbaceous plants and an impressive collection of blue and red hydrangeas. The site dates back to Saxon times, suggested by the discovery of Roman artefacts.

Dread lurks in the shadows Ghostly tours

Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Friday nights
01634 823815
www.thedockyard.co.uk

AS darkness draws in, The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, takes on an eerie atmosphere, providing the perfect backdrop for stories of history, intrigue, murder and mystery.

Ghost walkers will step into the creepy shadows of Commissioner's House Garden and the Victorian Ropery and find out just some of the dockyard's scariest stories. You can hear tales of figures such as the headless drummer boy and make up your own minds as to where the ghosts now walk. Those who dare will join a costumed guide. Friday evening walks are priced at £10; they start at 7.30pm and last 90 minutes. Email ghostwalks@chdt.org.uk for more information.



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www.dickensworld.co.uk

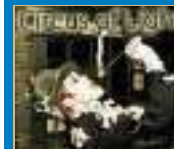
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(Sat. nav - use Leviathan Way)

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DICKENS WORLD EVENTS



CIRCUS OF LIGHT

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4th - 13th April (excluding 11th April)

Tickets: from £8.00 (Dickens World and Circus)

BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS

Time for Tea

A new 'Good Old Days' live show
Sing along to songs of yesteryear and enjoy a cream tea. Must pay for entry into Dickens World, tickets from £8.00, includes Time for Tea show. £5.00 extra for cream tea.

Next show - Wednesday 11th April

For more information visit www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



JONGLEURS COMEDY NIGHTS

Friday 27th April 2012

Friday 1st June 2012

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Saturday 2nd June 2012 - Britannia Theatre

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www.dickensworld.co.uk

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Battleship (12A)

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Streetdance 2 2D (PG)

Streetdance 2 3D (PG)

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (12A)

The Cold Light of Day (12A)

The Hunger Games (12A)

The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists 3D (U)

The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists 2D (U)

Titanic 2D (12A)

Titanic 3D (12A)

Wrath of the Titans 2D (12A)

Wrath of the Titans 3D (12A)

21 Jump Street (15)

ODEON KIDS

Alvin & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (U)

SENIOR SCREEN

Hugo 2D (U)

OTHER CINEMA

J. Edgar (15)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk



Squeeze on the cliffs It'll be cool for cats

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

Tuesday, November 27
www.atgtickets.com
0844 871 3015

FOLLOWING their hugely popular 2010 Spot The Difference Tour London, legends Squeeze return to the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone. It's been more than 35 years since Squeeze burst on to the music scene and their live shows prove that years of stage experience can only make you better.

As one of the UK's most-loved acts, there is no end of Squeeze fans quoting their influence, whether it be Mark Ronson, Kasabian or Lily Allen.

Since Chris Difford and Glenn Tilbrook re-formed the band with Squeeze veteran John Bentley, they have become an instant favourite on the festival circuit.

Walk the walk at royal venue Easter quests

Walmer Castle

Saturday to Monday, April 7-9
0870 333 1183
www.english-heritage.org.uk

TAKE a historic walk around beautiful Walmer Castle and Gardens over Easter. From 10am-5pm each day families can follow clues in a series of Easter quests around

the herbaceous borders, through the woodland amble and in the tranquil Queen Mother's Garden. Entry to the Easter events includes admission to the castle, which is beautifully furnished and includes the rooms lived in by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in her role of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Families can also see artefacts belonging to the Duke of Wellington, who lived there. A family ticket costs £19, while English Heritage members have free entry.



More music Sound out this fantastic fest

Maidstone Fringe Festival

Thursday to Monday, May 3-7
maidstonefringefestival.co.uk
info@zoesparkle.co.uk

THE second Maidstone Fringe Festival is being held over the May Day bank-holiday weekend.

This year more than 100 musicians have already been confirmed to appear, with 13 venues across the town taking part, including Earls, The Style & Winch, Drakes, The Druid's Arms, The Royal Albion, The Swan, The Dog & Gun, The Flowerpot, The White Horse and Babylon.

This year's festival also incorporates all-day events, with outdoor stages at a number of sites.

The event is as diverse as ever, covering indie, blues, ska, folk, psychedelia, metal, funk and soul. Additionally, there are more established acts playing this year's festival, alongside the lesser-known artists.

To find out who they are, check maidstonefringefestival.co.uk.



Fresh talent Bands making seaside waves

The Duke of Cumberland, Whitstable

Saturday, May 5
www.wegotickets.com

WHITLIVE puts on its new Introducing night next month and will feature new and up-and-coming bands. The shows, which will be held in The Duke of Cumberland

pub in Whitstable high street, start on Saturday, May 5.

First up are the Janice Graham Band, who have appeared on BBC Radio 2, BBC 6 Music and XFM and featured in Q magazine and the NME.

Described as mutant offspring of Arctic Monkeys and The Specials, the group could be on the cusp of the big time.

WhitLive's Jane Lindsey said:

"Our aim is to put on some of the best new live bands at a really intimate venue. I am expecting some amazing performances."

Tickets are priced at £7.

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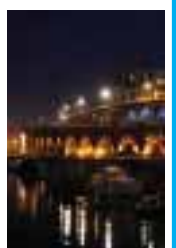
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STAGE & ARTS

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01634 241108
www.medwayticketslive.co.uk

THE flamboyant Feast of Fiddles heads to Medway in April for a 19th consecutive annual tour. England's most dynamic fiddle line-up fields some of the most legendary names in folk and a new addition, Dexy's Midnight Runners saxophonist Alan Whetton. The celebrated 11-piece collective combine the colossal talents of Fairport Convention's Chris Leslie, Steeleye Span's brilliant bowman Peter Knight and ex-Battlefield Band's Brian McNeill. The backing band is led by band-founder Hugh Crabtree on accordion and folk-rock drummer Dave Mattacks, who has played with the likes of Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Elton John and Chris Rea. The fiddlers reproduce tunes from Deep Purple and The Shadows... and James Bond.



Knights' tale Just go forth and Spamalot

The Churchill, Bromley
Mon, April 30-Sat, May 5
0844 871 7620
www.atgtickets.com/bromley

WEST End smash-hit comedy Spamalot will crusade its way to The Churchill Theatre for a week-long stint. The iconic show, which was written by Monty Python's

Eric Idle and Jon Du Prez, will have audiences roaring with laughter all the way. Spamalot tells the legendary tale of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and features a bevy of beautiful girls, gallantry and galloping... not to mention cows, killer rabbits and French people. Starring Marcus Brigstocke as King Arthur, singer Bonnie Langford as the Lady of the Lake and former Eastenders bad-boy Todd Carty as Patsy, this is one not to miss. Tickets are priced from £15 -£34.50.



A stroll in Avenue Q Political incorrectness

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Monday to Saturday, April 16-21
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

AFTER five years of mischief, bad behaviour and political incorrectness, arguably the West End's funniest show hits the road. The Tony Award-winning Avenue Q is a charming and wickedly-funny musical about the lovably-hopeless characters on a downtown New York street trying to make sense of life's burning issues: love, work, relationships and, above all, just how are you supposed to pay the bills with a BA in English? The show, which heads to The Marlowe this month, contains language and themes that some people may find offensive. It is not suitable for children under 12. Tickets are priced from £26.50-£31.

The People's Puppeteer Jason Byrne

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, October 4
01322 220 000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

HAVING charmed thousands of fans across the UK with his previous shows, Irish comedian Jason Byrne returns with the new People's Puppeteer.

Last year's Cirque Du Byrne won great acclaim and Jason bagged two Radio 2 series, The Jason Byrne Show and Father Figure. Dusting off the top hat for another round of comedy spectacle, Byrne is renowned the world over for his onstage exuberance and rib-tickling stunts, all while delivering an unforgettable experience. The biggest-selling comedian at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival last year, Byrne's high-energy intelligent lunacy ensures that there is no other comedian like him.



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HOMES

Councils to save Supporting People

COUNCILS must "invest to save" and protect their most disadvantaged residents, according to housing minister Grant Shapps.

He urged town halls to follow Whitehall's example and protect Supporting People funding to help the most vulnerable in their communities.

In a letter to council leaders, he reminded local authorities they should consider evidence that shows every pound spent through this housing-support

service saves £3 in reduced costs in homelessness, tenancy failure, crime, health and residential-care packages.

He added that the £1.6 billion invested annually in Supporting People can save as much as £3.41bn in the costs of alternative help for vulnerable people.

The funding is aimed at helping people across the country to live independently in their own homes. These can include older and disabled

people, single homeless people, people with mental health problems and women at risk of domestic violence.

Mr Shapps said: "Local taxpayers will rightly expect their councils to do their utmost to protect the services that help the most vulnerable residents in their communities."

"That's why we've protected the £6.5bn Supporting People funding, which each year helps approximately a million people to live independent lives."

To read this and other property stories visit our property blog @ **homes24.co.uk** ...or smartphone users can scan this QR code



Foundation for any home projects is a good builder

EMBARKING on building projects can be exciting but also full of obstacles, so make sure you don't fall at the first hurdle – find a good builder with whom you are happy to work.

The Great British Home Show 2012 has announced that the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) will be taking part in the event at Glow, Bluewater.

So what should you look for, and how can you be sure you are trusting your dream to someone who can deliver?

Finding the right builder can be daunting, but it is crucial, as not only will you have to live with the work the builder does for you but you may also have to live with the builder while the work is being done.

"The best way to find a good builder is through personal recommendations" said Brian Berry, director of external affairs at the FMB.

"Ask friends, family and neighbours for details of builders they have recently used. It is also worth trying the FMB's Findabuilder website, www.fmb.org.uk/findabuilder."

Before you contact any builders, you should make sure you know exactly what your project will entail. This will help the builder understand exactly what you want as well as ensure that the quote the builder gives you is in line with your specifications for the job.

Once you have a brief, ask at least three builders to visit and quote on the work. Remember, if you would like an insurance-backed warranty on your project you will have to use an FMB

member who is also registered with the National Register of Warranted Builders (NRWB).

When the builder comes to quote, ask them for references from previous customers, too. Then go and see the completed projects and ask the customer about their experience.

When you get the quotes back from the builder, make sure it covers everything you would like done, such as materials supply, removal of rubbish and making good after work is finished.

"Don't decide which builder to use on price alone. Consider how well you communicated together and the builder's references, too," said Mr Berry.

As part of the contract you should also agree a payment plan, with instalments to be paid as parts of the project are completed. Your builder may ask for a deposit to secure the date for your project to start, which is reasonable. It's also worth remembering that paying by credit card may offer you more protection, too.

Regular progress meetings during the build should ensure any misunderstandings can be cleared up straight away. However, another benefit of using an FMB member is that if any disagreements cannot be resolved there is somewhere to turn as the FMB has an independent complaints-handling procedure.

When the project is complete, make sure you pay your builder on time, according to the contract you have both agreed.

Then all that remains is for you to sit back and enjoy your improved home.

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

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Money and looks make Citroën's C1 an attractive proposition

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LIMITED range and driver angst about when the batteries will go dead have made electric cars the motoring equivalent of Sunday closing.

Buyers see them as occasional second cars for the city or commuting, but Vauxhall's new Ampera is a one-stop shop – it's electric, but you don't need a conventional car to back it up.

Critics say it's not an electric car, but a Toyota Prius-style hybrid, pointing to the onboard 85bhp 1.4-litre petrol engine. But it never drives the wheels directly.

Vauxhall calls it a "range extender" that engages automatically – and quietly – to recharge the car's batteries before depletion and keep the 148bhp electric motor moving the car.

So the Ampera may cost you peanuts and emit nothing if you use it on a 25 to 50-mile commute during the week by recharging at home and the office, but the petrol tank gives it a range of more than 300 miles before filling up conventionally if needed – for weekends and holidays, for instance – and making the car independent of charging points.

Vauxhall calls it the "first real world solution to electric car ownership" and the innovative UK press launch was 'alive' with sparky puns as we were invited to live the electric dream – without the driver's range anxiety nightmare afflicting battery-only electric cars.

After a good night's sleep, the Ampera commuter can walk out to the car – perhaps noting this is one alternative fuel car that looks good on the drive – and unplug the charger.

Once inside, the five-door hatchback is luxurious. It has to be though as Ampera prices start at £29,995 even with the £5,000 Government grant for plug-in cars – which brings prestigious eco diesels like the BMW 320d within reach.

However, Vauxhall promises Ampera customers will get VIP treatment through an elite range of dealers – Perrys at Canterbury has been appointed for Kent.

Once switched on, the Ampera whisks you quietly to the office or off to Scotland – it doesn't matter – and feels refined and well planted, helped by a battery pack amidships rather than towards the rear like some hybrid rivals, which ensures a sensible boot, too.

Pile into a corner though and there is no disguising the extra weight; it's a four-seat alternative to the Vauxhall's Astra hatch built on the same platform, but the Ampera feels more ponderous even if it grips tightly.

But it's the most fulfilling alternative fuel car to date and you could settle for this as your tax-efficient company wagon.

Official figures show 235mpg and CO2 emissions of just 27g/km, so that means no road tax or London congestion charge.

The Ampera and its Chevrolet Volt sister have already won the 2012 European Car of the Year title – expect it to win many more accolades.



Vauxhall Ampera

1st DRIVE

Price:	£29,995
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	None
Best rival:	BMW 320d

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NOT SURE

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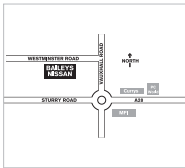
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Ninth-generation Civic carries on a futuristic drive for Honda

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT'S hard to believe we have just witnessed the launch of the ninth generation Honda Civic, especially when some have been so similar to their predecessors.

There's even an element of déjà vu about the latest in the line, but look back to the 1972 original and you can see a lot of evolution over the years – the Civic started as a supermini, but has grown into a family hatchback.

To be fair to the latest model (from £16,495) it has also become one of the most eye-catching in its sector, though the revolution took place last time around in the spaceship-styled 2006-2012 model.

The latest car marks more of a smooth evolution in style while jettisoning some of the extremes like the triangular exhaust pipes and the Dan Dare rocketship door handles.

This appears to show that Honda designers and engineers were briefed this time not to try and fix the Civic's looks, which are still at the head of a largely conservative sector in which the Vauxhall Astra is probably its most stylish rival.

Instead, the instructions appear to have been to raise the quality of the ownership experience.

The classic example is the previous Civic's Starship Enterprise dashboard, which must have startled some stalwart Civic fans of, shall we say, advancing years.

This glitzy array was toned down this time, but the Jean Luc Picard touch remains, while materials quality and taste have been turned up.

The speedo reading is still repeated in digital format just below the windscreen, and above a conventional binnacle; not quite a head up display, as featured on a few other cars, but a nice touch and a signal that the Civic's dashboard has been well thought out and arranged.

The cabin is generally a good place to be; space and legroom is good front and back and the seats on our mid-range ES spec model seemed

HONDA CIVIC 1.8 I-VTEC ES: PRICE £18,995

FACT FILE	
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£130/year one
Best rival:	Vauxhall Astra
Kent dealers:	
Barrett:	
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Ashford	01233 506789

CHANGING FACES: The original 1972 Civic was a supermini, but the latest model, now in its ninth incarnation, is family hatchback size and has become the most eye-catching car in its sector

plush and comfortable. A nice touch is the dual-purpose folding rear seats; fold the seat backs forward to get a flat rear load floor if needed, or lift up one or both seat bases in order to load high items into the footwell or stuff a bike in cross-ways – it's the USP borrowed from Honda's versatile Jazz supermini/MPV.

This arrangement also allows rear seat passengers to stow a light backpack or other bits and bobs beneath their seats.

The boot is also impressive and features a capacious false floor compartment.

Overall, there is a premium feel to the car and it has a 'Made in Britain' stamp, courtesy of production at Swindon, but the chassis on an everyday Civic like our test car doesn't handle as sharply as an equivalent VW Golf, Ford Focus or Astra – though it seems likely that sportier models will follow as in the past. Refinement and ride comfort is good, though, and there is a typically strong range of powertrains available, with more to come.

The 140bhp 1.8-litre petrol engine in the test car is lively yet refined and the standard-equipment start-stop helps the car to an average mpg in the mid-40s, while emissions (143g/km CO₂) are impressive for this cc, though it will still cost you £130/year in road tax from the off.

On the other hand, the familiar 2.2-litre diesel option will save you fuel and road tax and be slightly faster, but cost £2,100 more than our petrol version in the same spec – you'll need to cover a lot of miles to recoup that cash via fuel and tax savings.

There is a 1.6-litre diesel in the pipeline though, which may come to dominate sales.

First GEAR MOTORING NEWS



Sleeker CR-V reveals itself

HONDA has unveiled a more stylish successor to its current CR-V SUV model.

The all-new fourth-generation car should go on sale by autumn and be built at the Swindon UK plant.

The CR-V's sculpted lines are more aerodynamic and will underpin the car's eco credentials – Honda has stressed with the current car that "not all 4x4s are the same".



Be seen in VW style with CC

VOLKSWAGEN'S second generation CC four-door coupé is now on sale priced from £24,200 for the 1.8-litre TSI 160PS (158bhp) rising to £30,100 for the flagship GT 2.0-litre TDI 170PS (168bhp).

Like the latest Passat, it marks an evolution rather than revolution over its predecessor, but remains a classy and stylish yet practical alternative to a standard family saloon or hatch.



On the trail of the Urban Yeti

SKODA has launched a limited edition Yeti compact SUV.

The Urban label neatly encompasses the Yeti's most familiar habitat as a runabout for chic townies.

Priced and spec'd as for the usual mid-range SE front-wheel drive version (from £16,890), the Urban add-ons are worth £2,450 at no extra charge.

There's only problem: just 750 will be sold in the UK.

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11 CORSA 1.2 SXI LINEA 3dr, red.....	£9,995	09 CORSA ACTIVE CDTI 1.3 5dr, flame red.....	£7,495
11 CORSA 1.2 EXCITE 5dr, black sapphire.....	£9,995	11 CORSA SE AUTO 1.4 5dr.....	£11,495
11 CORSA 1.4 SXI AUTO, star silver.....	£10,995	08 ASTRA VXR 2.0 3dr, red.....	£10,495
61 CORSA 1.3 EXCITE CDTI 5dr, oriental blue.....	£12,995	09 ASTRA DESIGN CDTI 1.7 T 1.9 2dr, ultra blue.....	£8,995
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60 ASTRA EXCITE 1.4 5dr, white.....	£9,495	06 CORSA SXI A/c 1.4 5dr, ultra blue.....	£3,995
60 ASTRA SRI SPORTS HATCH X PACK 1.8 3dr, black sapphire.....	£12,995	06 CORSA SXI CDTI Ex Pack 1.9 3dr, white.....	£2,995
60 NEW ASTRA SRI AUTO 1.6 5dr, metro blue.....	£11,995	04 ASTRA CLUB ESTATE 1.6 5dr, star silver.....	£2,695
11 ASTRA SRI SPORTS HATCH X PACK 1.8 3dr, glacier white.....	£11,995	58 ASTRA SRI CDTI Ex Pack 1.9 3dr, white.....	£7,995
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Car shown for Bank of Scotland purposes only

MOTORING

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Citroën's C1 city car went on sale this week, with impressive financial packages on offer and a hi-spec VTR+ version that has USB connectivity as standard, far left



Citroën baby's new look has extra cash appeal

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FUEL shortages across the UK have added to the urge to downsize our cars and stoked the battle for sales in the city-car sector of the market.

VW and its sister brands are in the process of rolling out three closely related baby hatchbacks derived from VW's own Up model; its Seat Mii and Skoda Citigo siblings arrive soon.

But there are already hot contenders on the market and notably another set of triplets: the Toyota Aygo, Peugeot 107 and Citroën C1.

Look-alikes these three- or five-door minis

might be, but each has also been cleverly customised by its parent brand and enhanced by a recent major facelift – no doubt prompted by the Up family's arrival.

The Citroën is the latest to get the makeover and it's not just skin deep – there's a financial new look to get you oggling, too.

The revised car went on sale this week with an official starting price of £7,995, but the French marque has already said you can buy one for £1,000 less via its Citroën Reward cashback scheme.

As if that isn't tempting enough, you could also take advantage of a personal lease deal on

mid-range VTR versions that starts from just £99/month and throws in one year's free insurance for drivers aged 21-75. And that's something of a no-brainer for hard-pressed young drivers who want something new, economical, safe and funky and, insurable without paying the draconian rates now levied by insurers.

All C1 models bar the £10,545 five-door VTR+ flagship featuring the marque's semi-auto EGS (Electronic Gearbox System) also return CO₂ emissions of just 99g/km, exempting them from road tax altogether and enhancing their appeal to Kent-based commuters into London, since they also escape the capital's congestion charge.

The VTR+ (104g/km) avoids road tax in year one, too, but is subject to just £30/year thereafter.

Fuel consumption is also impressive from the C1's standard three-cylinder 1.0-litre petrol engine, with Citroën claiming a potential average mpg in the mid-60s.

Entry level VT specification is fairly basic, as you might expect at these prices, but stepping up to popular VTR trim – from £8,995 and available on the £99/month deal – includes air con and electric front windows, while high-spec VTR+ (from £9,695) adds alloys, Bluetooth and USB connectivity, front fog lights, leather steering wheel and dark tinted windows.

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Fuel consumption figures for the 12YM Civic range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 – 55.4 (8.7 – 5.1), Extra Urban 54.3 – 76.3 (5.2 – 3.7), Combined 44.1 – 67.3 (6.4 – 4.2). CO₂ emissions: 150 – 110 g/km.

Model shown: 12YM Civic 1.8 ES Manual in White Orchid Pearl at £19,880 including metallic paint. **Terms & Conditions:** Offers valid on new retail Civic models ordered from 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 and registered by 30 June 2012. Offers applicable at participating Dealers and are at the Promoter's absolute discretion. **Service Plan:** Three years' servicing or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first, includes a maximum of three services, at £349 for petrol models and £449 for diesel models. **Honda Hire Purchase (HP):** Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe PLC, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

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Kent's Olympic Countdown

Olympic Park heads towards this summer's finishing line

With the Games only four months away, last weekend the first public event took place at its east London home. We were there...

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

TRANSFORMING an industrial wasteland into one of the world's most modern sporting complexes is a feat which the good folk behind this summer's Olympic Games can feel justly very proud of.

With just four months to go before the opening ceremony ushers the eyes of the world into this previously derelict part of east London, things are going alarmingly to plan.

They may not yet be finished – a section of the Olympic stadium seating remains pointedly incomplete, and a lot of the structure literally still in its wrappers – but there's nothing major that makes your heart sink when you spot it.

What's more, the key venues act as anchor points of completed success: the velodrome, the aquatics centre, the stadium itself; calling cards of a job almost complete.

For the Government it has meant they have been able to concentrate on the important issues – things like pasties and sparking panic at the petrol pumps – and not get bogged down with embarrassing headlines of delays or wet paint signs come day one.

Last weekend was a big test for those whose job it is to ensure the Olympic Park – the sprawling complex of venues, operational centres and accommodation – was, if not completely ready, then at least on the back straight.

At the heart of this first opportunity to let the public stroll around the stadium and complex, was the National Lottery Olympic Park Run – and with it a good opportunity to try out a bit of carefully managed crowd control.

More than 45,000 people had entered a ballot last year to be in with a chance of nabbing one of the 5,000 places to run a five-mile course around the park, the crowning glory being ending the race by entering the stadium itself and running the final 300 metres on the track which the world's greatest athletes will be pounding – becoming among the first to cross the finish line.

This was once-in-a-lifetime stuff for the runners and, perhaps more importantly, an



CENTRE STAGE: Eyes of the world will be on the Olympic Stadium

opportunity to put some of the venue's features to the test for those on whose shoulders the world's biggest sporting event this year rests.

So what of the much discussed stadium itself? The jewel in the crown of the multi-million pound park?

In truth, it is strangely underwhelming close-up.

If you are expecting a venue to rival the likes of new-build stadia such as Wembley or the Emirates; full of glass-fronted

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The suspicion is the Olympic Park will deliver an atmosphere not unlike the relaxed, easy-going, mood of Wimbledon

splendour and reeking of wealth and big bucks hospitality opportunities, then at least for now you'll be a little disappointed. But an early visit was always going to be a little like walking in on someone in a state of undress.

Its exterior is all black poles and countless toilet blocks, ringed by enough currently empty concession stands that suggest no-one will go hungry or without a cup of coffee or souvenir hat for long.

From the lower seating levels inside the venue, it all feels surprisingly compact and rather intimate, which will be music to the ears of those lucky enough to get tickets for the athletics – although when on the track itself looking up, there is a different sense of scale you become very aware of.

The seats rake gently back giving a sense the big crowds and a full house will surely create a remarkable atmosphere.

The track itself feels light, almost springy. Even with some 10,000-plus people inside, the

venue felt very empty.

Yet when viewing clips filmed from within on the big screens erected outside, it looks magnificent.

It was never going to be able to rival the 2008 Beijing Olympics hopelessly dramatic and deliberately politically powerful Bird's Nest National Stadium, but it will prove to be a functional, fine stadium of which we can feel proud, if perhaps not get over excited about.

As for the rest of the park, it is difficult to get a true sense of what it will be like when complete. Some venues are still taking shape, but with the sun out, the flower beds in and the venue dressed in all the Olympic garb and Five Ring glory, the suspicion is it will provide an atmosphere not dissimilar to that easy-going, relaxed vibe which makes Wimbledon such a thoroughly enjoyable visitor experience.

The only negative? If you have a ticket for any event within the park brace yourself for a past-time we Brits have developed a real skill for – queuing.

Once you've entered the site, row upon row of high-tech airport-style security scanners stand next to each other under marquee-like structures waiting for you as you snake your way through the queues ready for your bags to be checked and your body frisked.

Of course, the real treat is that accessing the site from Kent is remarkably simple.

Assuming, of course, you can actually squeeze onto one of the few high-speed services hurtling towards Stratford during the Games, you can be there in a little over 25 minutes from Ashford International and just a handful of minutes from Ebbsfleet.

You have to then navigate through the crowds of shoppers at the Westfield shopping complex which looms before you once you exit, but you can go from Ashford to the gates of the park in 40 minutes if you time your run right.

London is going to be ready this summer – and we should never underestimate the value of positive headlines running up to the event to keep the national blood pressure calm... just ask Athens and Sydney how uncomfortable it can get otherwise.



Surroundings inspired me to Olympian effort

Chris Britcher crossed the finishing line, at a pace generously described as 'sluggish'

AFTER five miles, fuelled by a body which has spent nearly 40 years being nurtured on a strict diet of laziness and too many pies, the glimpse of sunlight was met with the sound of the music from Chariots of Fire.

I was running around a service tunnel within the Olympic Stadium – the sunlight signalling my emergence into the brightness and thousands of family and friends waiting to cheer on those taking part in the National Lottery Olympic Park Run.

Vangelis' musical interlude was striking enough for me to pull out my headphones and silence a painstakingly selected playlist of inspirational tunes designed to motivate and distract me while my tired little fat legs carried me around the blossoming Olympic Park.

We'd gone past an array of venues – some looking as though they were ready for business, others which allowed me to spend a little time pondering what on earth they were going to be – in what is still very much a work in progress.

Yet amid the crowds – and I was very much in the back-markers section, comfortably ahead of a bloke on crutches, who worryingly I only overtook some miles in, and an OAP who was walking round with one of those support trolleys pushed out in front of him – the mood contained that Olympic spirit.

Chances are, many of the slow movers wouldn't have been doing this if it had not been for the Olympic Games inspiring us and the chance to make a little bit of history. And while many are quick to poo-poo the event's core

'inspirational' brand quality, it was almost tangible last Saturday – despite the deceptively chilly March temperatures.

Little pockets of workmen stopped to clap us round – visitors cheered.

It was oddly moving. I must admit to more than a little lump appearing in my throat as I emerged to run on to the track.

Calming myself down, I found my feet pounding the track which in just a few short months will play host to the greats as they go in pursuit of Olympic gold.

Round I plodded, accelerating as I approached the final corner, only to realise I had used up the last bit of energy I had and was then forced to almost stagger down the home straight and across the finish line.

I was too knackered to lift my arms aloft Kelly Holmes-style, or strike a Usain Bolt pointed arm pose – much as I would have liked.

It didn't matter though.

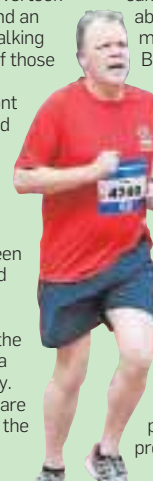
As I paused to cough up a lung, I'd managed a personal milestone. I had run five miles and on a training regime which barely deserved such a grand title.

The sense of satisfaction was extraordinary. The fact I was doing it in such a setting was the icing on the cake. The Olympics is all about a sense of achievement and taking part.

Bizarrely, of all people, I was sharing in that.

I pulled out my medal from the goody bag and hung it around my neck as I shed a rather self-indulgent tear.

The time – just under 58 minutes – was hardly going to set the world on fire, but I'd finished. And I wasn't last. No; I was 5,203rd – which seeing as I thought there were only 5,000 people taking part probably says something.



Sport

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MOTORSPORT

Superbikes return revs up rivalries as riders seek season opening win

By James Benjamin

sports@kosmedia.co.uk

AFTER all the pre-season hype, the MCE Insurance British Superbike Championship roars into action this weekend at Brands Hatch, with two Kent racers seeking to start as they mean to go on in their bid for glory.

Former champion, Sheppey's Shane Byrne, and existing title holder, Beckenham's Tommy Hill, will go head-to-head amid a field packed with international motorcycling talent.

Last October, Hill won the 2011 championship in sensational style by just 0.006 of a second in the closest title finish in MCE BSB history, allowing him to line up with the number one plate at the four-day opening event at his home circuit.

He said: "I am looking forward to getting back to Brands Hatch as I have such great memories of the last time I raced there when we won the title. We want to pick up where we left off last year as it is key to come away from the first rounds with some strong finishes and can carry the momentum to the next round.

"We have been feeling positive after pre-season testing, but it will come down to Easter Monday when the racing really starts and we are going to come out fighting."

Hill will face fierce rivalry in his quest for victory with his new team and former World Superbike Championship contender Noriyuki Haga lining up alongside him at Swan Yamaha.

The Japanese ace is nick-



THE NEED FOR SPEED:

Shane Byrne, from Sheppey (left), and Beckenham's Tommy Hill lock horns at Brands Hatch this weekend as the BSB season gets under way

named the 'Samurai of Slide' for his flamboyant riding style and his debut is eagerly anticipated by his British fans.

Haga said: "I like Brands Hatch; I have never raced on the Indy circuit, but this won't be a problem as I know the rest of the track very well from World Superbikes.

"I have had lots of fans there in the past so I hope they come and support me again.

"We have a good setting with the Swan Yamaha after our pre-season testing and like everyone I want to win.

"This is a new challenge for me, with different circuits and riders and I will be trying very hard to get results. I will be giving 100 percent and for sure I will go for it in the races."

Double champion Shane 'Shakey' Byrne returns in a bid to claim a third MCE BSB Championship title, which would

equal the current record.

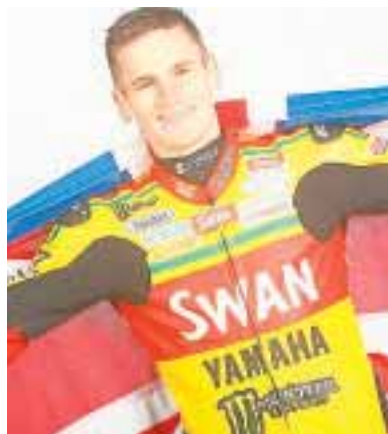
Brands has been a happy hunting ground in the past for the local star and he rejoins Paul Bird's former title winning team in the new Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki colours.

Byrne said: "This season is the start of a new chapter with the championship and the team; I am very proud to be part of it.

"Now pre-season testing is behind us we will see who has the initial edge and I am sure there will be a few surprises.

"I feel the Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki team are well prepared and we don't want to be just making up the numbers. I am feeling pumped and ready for the weekend."

Last year's title contender Josh Brookes returns with the Tyco Suzuki team as the Australian aims for the title that has eluded him in the past; he runs alongside reigning Motor-



point British Supersport champion Alastair Seeley.

Michael Laverty was also in contention last season and now with the Samsung Honda team, set the early pace at a recent pre-season test at Snetterton.

He will be aiming for the title with a team who have already claimed three championship victories.

The MCE British Superbike Championship also sees former World Supersport Championship contenders Florian Marino (France) and Luca Scassa (Italy) lining up on the grid at Brands with the Splitlath Redmond Racing and Padgett's Honda teams respectively.

The season also marks the debut of Ducati's newest superbike, the Panigale, with Italian Alex Polita joining the Jentini Doodson Motorsport Ducati team while Maidstone's Scott Smart gears up for his home round.

FOOTBALL

Gills seek six of the best in play-off race

ANDY Hessenthaler will not care for chocolate this weekend, but will have developed a mighty appetite for points, with two games over the long Easter weekend which will almost certainly set the tone for the remainder of the league campaign.

Entering the weekend a worrying four points off the play-off zone, they face Bristol Rovers on Friday and then host Dagenham & Redbridge at Priestfield on Monday.

On paper, they should be games which deliver an essential six points. Especially as next Saturday sees them travel to play-off rivals Oxford United in what could either spell the end or revival of dreams of promotion.

MOTORSPORT

Accident destroys teen's racing dream

A TEENAGER who had dreams of making it big in motocross saw his hopes destroyed when his foot was shattered by a 16-tonne machine.

Countryside Recycling Ltd of Maidstone were this week prosecuted in court by the Health and Safety Executive for failings around the accident which led to the injury of Daniel Brown in Folkestone in 2010.

It forced him to give up his motocross career having won races at national level and negotiated a potential sponsorship package.

The company were fined £10,000 and had to pay more than £6,600 in expenses. Brown suffered 16 broken bones in the accident and has not been able to return to work.

HORSE RACING

Family event set to pull in big race crowd

THOUSANDS of race fans will head down to Folkestone Racecourse this week for the popular family day at the circuit.

With a full race-card of flat racing lined up and coinciding with the school holidays, it is traditionally one of the best attended events on the calendar.

In addition to the racing, organisers will be staging a space hopper race down the track, a bouncy castle, plus face-painting, balloon-modelling and a treasure hunt.

Gates open at 12.10pm, with the first race at 2.10pm and finishing at 4.40pm.

Under 18s are free when accompanied by an adult.

CRICKET

Wells duo shine while team nabs tour win

WHILE Tunbridge Wells Cricket Club continues its pre-season tour of South Africa, two of their young players set out to make a good impression with their first class debuts.

Matt Green, 19, turned out for Durham MCCU against Middlesex, opening the bowling and eventually finishing up with figures of 1-53 from 16 overs.

Meanwhile on the same day, Tom Elliott, 20, got the call from Cambridge MCCU for their first game against Essex. He made 30 runs and took a wicket.

Club administrator Alan Cutts said: "Both are emerging talents and it was amazing both got their big chance on the same day."

CRICKET

Is Davies key to unlocking door of success for Kent?

AS Jimmy Adams and Rob Key seek to get Kent's County Championship campaign off to a winning start against Yorkshire, the county side's latest signing has vowed to play a key role in securing the club success this season.

Former Durham seamer Mark Davies was snapped up after impressing on a trial at the St Lawrence, and then underlined his potential with a tight display of bowling in the warm-up game against Glamorgan at Canterbury recently.

He ended with figures of two wickets for 18 runs off 12 overs.

Now hopes are high that if he



can avoid falling victim to an ankle injury which ruled him out of the 2011 season, he could be a vital weapon in Kent's arsenal.

Coach Jimmy Adams said: "Mark has shown us more than enough

over the past couple of weeks what a talent he is and what he can offer us over the season."

Davies added: "I'm thrilled to have signed and I'm really excited to be playing cricket again.

"I just want to recover from my injuries and get back to performing the way I know I can. I know I've got plenty of cricket in me."

Kent conclude their first match at Headingley this weekend.

FOOTBALL

Bay aim for league glory as Vase dreams are shattered

HERNE Bay have refocused their sights on lifting the Kent League crown after the crushing disappointment of narrowly missing out on an appearance at Wembley Stadium.

Bay travelled last week the 300-plus miles to Durham looking to build on the 2-2 draw at Winch's Field in the FA Vase semi-final first leg against West

Auckland. Knowing only a win would be enough to send them into the final, they took an early lead against the home side, encouraging the travelling supporters.

But two goals in quick succes-



sion around the half hour mark saw Bay's dreams in tatters.

West Auckland held on to win 2-1 and ensure their moment in the sun at the national stadium.

Had Bay won, they would have become only the second club in Kent's history to reach the final, the first being Deal who lifted the trophy in 2000.

However, back to league business at Tunbridge Wells on Tuesday night saw Bay return to winning ways with a 2-0 victory.

It put them five points clear going into this weekend's games and with several games in hand.

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